Mendiola-Long represents Tinian on BOE. PAGE 2
CUC: Hiring efforts for 3 management positions doing well. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 20
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30, 2019
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

McDonald's donates $30K to Red Cross

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan donated $30,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts last Tuesday at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill.

The donation was led by local McDonald's franchisee general manager Marcia Ayuyu with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in attendance.

"With the recovery that we have ongoing I'd like to thank all the

See MCDONALD'S on Page 4

ERWIN ENCINARES
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres poses with McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh Monday as the local franchisee of the fast food giant donated $30,000.

IPI to meet workers tomorrow

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are scheduled to meet tomorrow, Jan. 31, with the group of construction workers that were recently laid off so that once and for all their concerns would be addressed and their fears allayed.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago said IPI has yet to give them the final time and venue of the meeting. "We just want IPI to clarify everything and address all of their concerns. They are worried about their H-2B visas expiring and not getting paid."

"They have been in limbo after some of them were informed that they are being laid off while some were scheduled to have already left Saipan because their visas are expiring. They are afraid to be branded as overstayers in the CNMI," he added.

The more than 100 construction workers—masons, carpenters, plumbers, and electricians—from the Philippines hold H-2B visas, but are now worried after the country was recently removed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from the said visa program.

Ian Piel, one of the construction worker who gathered at the U.S.

See IPI on Page 4

10 years for man who burglarized House legal counsel

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Benjamin Bok Lee was sentenced yesterday to 10 years imprisonment for burglarizing the home of House of Representatives legal counsel Joseph Taijeron in Garapan in 2017.

Lee, 28, was sentenced yesterday by Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja to serve 10 imprisonment, all suspended except for nine years with possibility for parole. Lee was also given credit for the time served in prison which

See 10 YEARS on Page 4

KIMBERLY A BAUTISTA
Benjamin Bok Lee is escorted back to the Department of Corrections following his sentencing yesterday.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The Justice Department unsealed criminal charges Monday against Chinese tech giant Huawei, a top company executive, and several subsidiaries.
PAGE 13

ASIA
President Rodrigo Duterte and his top security officials on Monday visited a Catholic cathedral in the southern Philippines where suspected Islamic militants set off bombs that killed 20 people and wounded more than 100.
PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Michael Jackson's family members said Monday that they are "furious" that two men who accuse him of sexually abusing them as boys have received renewed attention because of a new documentary about them.
PAGE 21

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Mendiola-Long represents Tinian on BOE

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian businessman Philip Mendiola-Long yesterday was sworn into the 16th CNMI Board of Education in their office conference room on Capitol Hill, effectively completing the board.

BOE legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu yesterday officiated the oath-taking of the fifth and final voting member of the board, gubernatorial appointee Mendiola-Long, after former Tinian representative to the BOE Florine Hofschneider declined to seek reelection citing personal reasons.

In an interview yesterday, Mendiola-Long noted that he has yet to set his goals and aspirations for the Public School System, however, without first making his first rounds to all schools in the CNMI to get a "hands-on" experience for possible improvement policies.

"It's going to be difficult to set goals at this point," Mendiola-Long said yesterday. "…I want to learn as much as I can and learn where the BOE is going toward at this point and add my experience and background to anything we [would be] discussing," he said.

Mendiola-Long is chief executive officer for Tinian-based Bridge Investment Corp.

"At this point, the priority is to consume as much information as possible to learn about PSS, its administration, and its operations and then have the ability to set priorities and goals based on that," he said. Mendiola-Long further noted that he already set up a meeting with Education Commissioner Glenn Muna to conduct tours on the schools under PSS.

"I'd like to do research first…I've got to consume and study first," he continued.

Janice A. Tenorio, 16th BOE chairwoman, in an interview yesterday noted that she is looking forward to working with Mendiola-Long. She added that she already has plans to assign Mendiola-Long and BOE freshman Andrew Orsini into specialized committees to maximize their contributions.

"With Mendiola-Long's business background, he can contribute in regards to [things] that all the other boards or unaware of," she said, adding that most BOE members have minimal business backgrounds.

Former chair Marylou Ada and Orsini were in human resources, while Rota representative, retired sergeant major Herman Atalig, was previously a teacher. Tenorio herself was in customer service and is currently an executive at a major local telecommunications company.

JON PEREZ

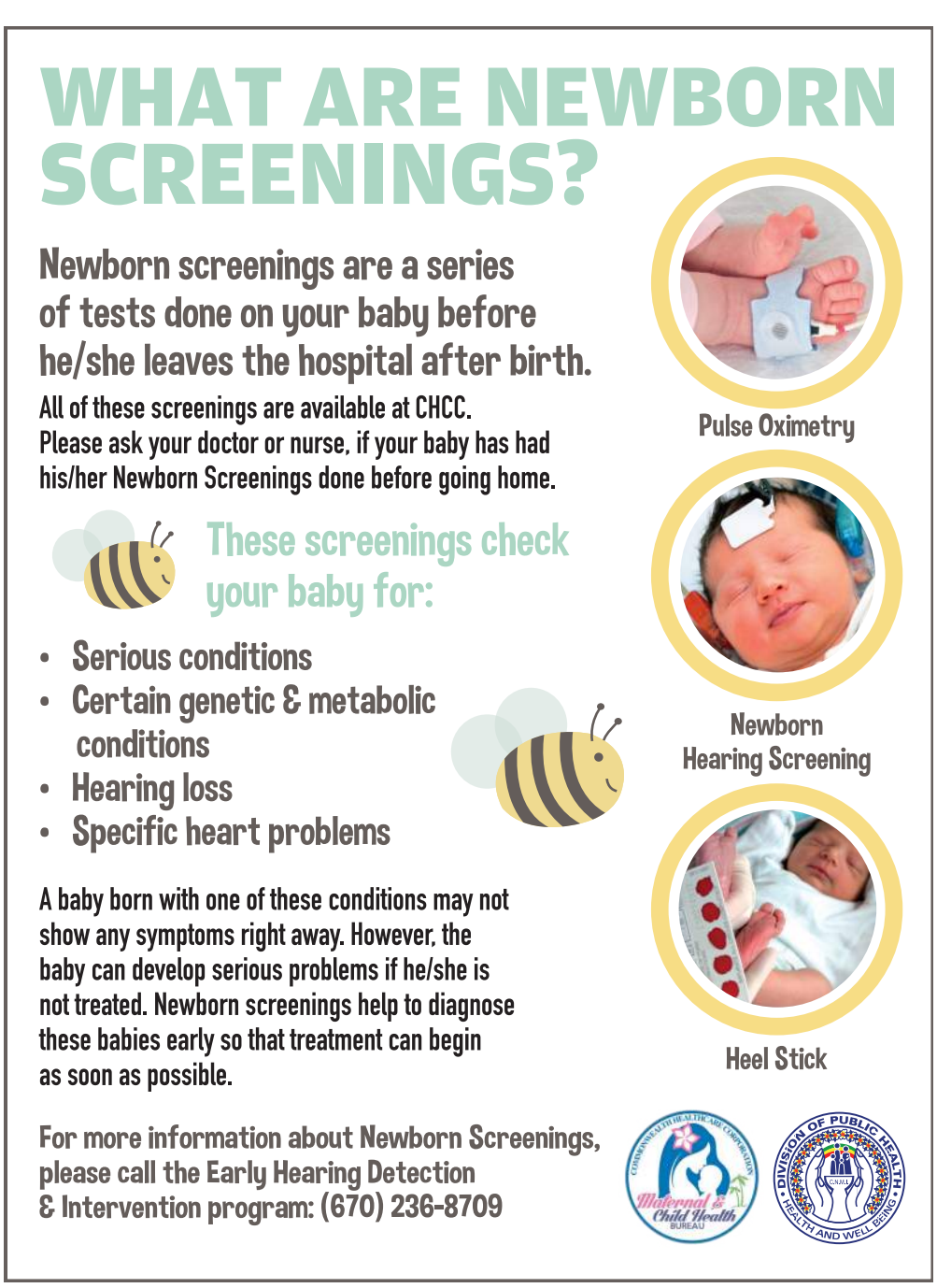
CNMI Board of Education Tinian representative Philip Mendiola-Long, fifth left, joins BOE members led by chair Janice Tenorio, seventh left, Public School System commissioner Glen Muna, eighth left, and several members of the Senate after being sworn is yesterday at the BOE office in Capital Hill.

MLSC to host probate workshops

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting a series of probate workshops. These are intended as community legal education to help people in the CNMI understand the probate process.

The first workshop will be Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, 3pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and will focus on where to start for probate when a loved one dies. The workshops are free. Call MLSC at 234-7729 for more information. ***(PR)***

THE BEST GAMING CLUB IN SAIPAN
WELCOME
TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB
JANUARY
PLAYER PROMOTION
Spin to Win
with a chance to
win $1,000
on our daily player promo draws.
With over $11,000 to be won
only at the Best Gaming Club in Saipan.
Come play today and you could be the next big winner!


WHAT ARE NEWBORN SCREENINGS?
Newborn screenings are a series of tests done on your baby before he/she leaves the hospital after birth.
All of these screenings are available at CHCC.
Please ask your doctor or nurse, if your baby has had his/her Newborn Screenings done before going home.
These screenings check your baby for:
• Serious conditions
• Certain genetic & metabolic conditions
• Hearing loss
• Specific heart problems
A baby born with one of these conditions may not show any symptoms right away. However, the baby can develop serious problems if he/she is not treated. Newborn screenings help to diagnose these babies early so that treatment can begin as soon as possible.
For more information about Newborn Screenings, please call the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention program: (670) 236-8709
Pulse Oximetry
Newborn Hearing Screening
Heel Stick
Maternal & Child Health Bureau
Division of Public Health

CUC: Hiring efforts for 3 management positions doing well

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho said they have been doing well in trying to fill the vacancies in critical management positions.

Camacho, in an interview, said they have announced the vacancies and sent the listing of applicants for the three positions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

He disclosed that they got a good number of applicants for the chief of engineer position that was left vacant when Song Kim resigned for personal matters.

"We're very supportive of him, a great guy. It's wonderful working with him and we wish him the best forward," said Camacho, referring to Kim, who resigned last October reportedly for family/medical reasons.

With respect to the position of chief financial officer, Camacho said they also got a number of applicants and that they initiated interviews.

Camacho

CUC reportedly did not renew Antonio Castro's contract as chief financial officer.

Camacho said for the position of water and wastewater manager, they have also an applicant from off-island.

Former water and wastewater manager Gary Byrd resigned last Nov. 30 reportedly to accept an off-island job.

According to U.S. Department of Justice Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, CUC historically sustained lengthy vacancies in management positions thereby impending CUC's operations and compliance with the federal court's two stipulated orders.

In the U.S. government's January 2019 status report about CUC stipulated order projects, O'Brien said since the August 2018 status conference, three "Stipulated Order 1 position" employees left CUC employment and these positions remain unfilled.

O'Brien said it is critical that these positions—chief engineer, chief financial officer, and water and wastewater manager—be timely filled by persons who meet the Stipulated Order 1 qualifications.

SO 1 refers to federal court-mandated projects that focus on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of

See CUC on Next Page

Customers First
TRIPLE J
DRIVE IN
TRIPLE J SAYS Yes!
THE NEW YEAR
WITH HYUNDAI
2019 HYUNDAI
ELANTRA
• Fuel-efficient, 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission • 16" Alloy Wheels
• Android Auto & Apple CarPlay connectivity
• 7" touch-screen Audio Display with Back-up Camera
• 9 Airbag Safety System
UP TO 37 MPG
YOUR CHOICE
$21,995
HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING NEW POSSIBILITIES
Saipan's Best Warranty
10-Year/100,000-Mile
Limited Powertrain Warranty
OR AS LOW AS $152 PER PAYCHECK
2019 HYUNDAI
KONA
• Fuel-efficient, 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission • 16" Alloy Wheels
• Android Auto & Apple CarPlay connectivity
• 7" touch-screen Audio Display with Back-up Camera
UP TO 33 MPG
Kona
CHECK OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY
@triplejsaipan.com
Receive $500 in Truckload Store
Shopping certificates with the purchase of any new Hyundai!
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRUCKLOAD STORE
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
OPEN
Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051
autosales@triplejsaipan.com
WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan
*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500. While current supplies last. 2019 Elantra SEL and Kona L – total price is $21,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 4.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $331.25 per month or $152 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $19,875.00.

NMTI eyes new class offerings

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is looking into adding more trade classes to offer to the public as reported yesterday to the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

NMTI Continuing Education director Ross Manglona reported to the Rotary Club yesterday that they are looking at reactivating classes that were previously discontinued due to the lack of a qualified instructor. One of the several classes Manglona noted included plumbing, electrical, welding, drafting, and masonry.

"We were lucky enough to get Richard Wasser," said Manglona. He noted that Wasser was previously the wastewater manager for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. He is also qualified to teach masonry according to Manglona.

"We are going to maximize him… [we will] have him teach high schools and on [NMTI] campus," said Manglona. "I am hoping to [increase the number of] plumbers here on Saipan," he continued.

Back in 2015, NMTI reportedly lost their former plumbing instructor, forcing them to close the class.

"NMTI looks at labor charts—we are targeting the areas where we have high CW-1-dependent positions," he noted. "We are trying to curb that a little bit at a time."

According to Manglona, Wasser's classes start on Feb. 25, 2019, from 6pm to 8pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For those interested, Manglona noted that the application form may be downloaded from their website at www.nmticnmi.org or through paying them a visit at their lower base campus.

"Anybody can sign up for classes. We have students that sign up for enrichment courses," he said. Manglona noted that the certification may be used to supplement a qualification or to develop a profession.

Atalig ordered to appear personally at hearing

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to appear in court at the hearing for his counsel's motion to withdraw from representing him in his criminal case.

Manglona set the hearing for today, Wednesday, at 8:30am.

Manglona ordered Atalig to appear personally.

Manglona

Atalig

The judge allowed Atalig to appear by telephone from Rota.

David George Banes, a member of the O'Connor Berman Horey and Banes law firm, asked the court to allow their law firm withdraw as counsel for Atalig.

Banes disclosed that Atalig currently owes a substantial amount in unpaid legal fees to their law firm, which is representing him in separate criminal cases pending in federal and local courts.

Banes said so far, the retainers Atalig paid to their law firm have been depleted and the mayor currently owes substantial legal fees, the bulk of which was for the defense in the federal case.

Last December, Atalig, through counsel, informed the court that he may be eligible for a court-appointed counsel.

Last September, Manglona determined that the mayor is not eligible for a court-appointed counsel. This prompted Atalig to hire the O'Connor law firm to represent him.

In federal court, Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, are indicted with five corruption charges for arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Republic of Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

In the Superior Court case, the Office of the Attorney General filed criminal charges against Atalig and seven other Rota municipal officials in connection with the Guam political rally.

The Ataligs pleaded not guilty of all charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MCDONALD'S

From Page 1

partners we've had in the past and everybody that continued to contribute," said Torres.

Yutu ravaged both Saipan and Tinian in late October 2018.

"It's the mission of the American Red Cross that [makes us] go back to them and donating to them," said McDonald's Saipan Middle Road manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., adding that he expects Super Typhoon Yutu to be a typhoon that would go down in history as one of the worst that hit the CNMI.

"[American Red Cross NMI Chapter is] an established organization that has been around for many years and they have always been into helping the community with disasters and just anything that the community needs—they are one of the first responders," he continued.

ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said in an interview that the donation is what "empowers" the organization to fulfill its duty on Saipan.

"Right after the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, the Red Cross mobilized its volunteers and all its resources to provide emergency assistance to families who are most vulnerable and in the most need," he said.

He added that the humanitarian organization provided assistance that included giving emergency supplies and even monetary distributions.

In a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Hirsh noted that the organization expended about $5 million in emergency response efforts providing food, water, and emergency supplies among others.

IPI

From Page 1

Department of Labor satellite office on Mariana Heights II Building last Tuesday, said that IPI still owes him nine days of work, while adding that most of them have yet to receive their reimbursements for the H-2B visa and medical services fees that they paid in the Philippines.

IPI has yet to pay most of the workers after promising to settle their compensation a few days ago. Arago and his representatives are hoping the casino developer would finally address this and other related issues in their scheduled meeting.

The seven-day accrued paid time off, however, would be the prerogative of the company since the workers were laid off with their H-2B visas not being renewed due to the Philippines being banned, unlike the previous group of construction laborers that were terminated but had their H-2B visas renewed.

The workers said they were called to attend a meeting last Jan. 18, where an IPI representative verbally informed some of them of their stop work notices. They were then told that after three days they would receive their final pay and flight details to the Philippines.

More than a week had already passed and some of those workers are still here, waiting anxiously for any word about their compensation and airfare.

"All they need is proper communication from IPI. All of the workers want to go back to the Philippines to be with their families. We told them that we're going to communicate with IPI. That's the only thing that IPI needs to do, talk to the workers to address their concerns. Right now, these workers, they are all worried," said Arago.

"Right now, they are in limbo. Communication is really needed to stop all the rumors and other things that these workers hear. IPI should communicate with them. I think IPI is willing to help them but the proper flow of information did not go through."

The workers said they want IPI to clarify why they were only informed verbally not in writing of their stop work notices, why are they taking so long to release their final paychecks, and they want to have enough time to review if they are getting paid the right amount, and they need to know their flight details before their H2-B visa expires.

A legal volunteer at the Philippine honorary consul's office, however, explained to the workers that there's a grace period of at least 10 days that would not reflect on their record as an overstaying worker in a U.S. jurisdiction.

James Abel, one of the workers, has an expiration of Jan. 31 on his H-2B visa but it says on his I-94 form that it is still valid from Feb. 1 to Feb. 9. Still, he needs to leave the CNMI on or before Feb. 9.

The reason for that grace period, according to the legal volunteer, is due to unforeseen circumstances like problems in booking the flight back home or in case of natural disasters or calamities that could affect operations at the airport.

CUC

From Page 3

CUC's organization.

SO 2 focuses on oil issues and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

Former CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok recently stated that CUC is actively advertising to fill the vacancies of the three positions.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter started last Monday a week-long status conference about various CUC projects.

Carter had informed the parties that he would like to learn on the status of the various activities and requirements relevant to SO1 and SO2.

10 YEARS

From Page 1

was equivalent to a year.

Lee is scheduled to be released on Aug. 21, 2026.

During the sentencing, Lee through his lawyer Robert Torres, argued that Lee is a good candidate for the Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti, or HOPE, Recovery Center because his crimes were committed under the influence of drugs and addiction is considered an illness that should be treated.

Office of the Attorney General's Robert Glass in his closing argument said that Lee should serve the full imprisonment term because he had committed the burglary while he was awaiting sentencing for a previous crime. "He had his chance, now he's done," he said.

Glass included that the victims did not only lose their belongings, they also endured trauma from the experience. The experience was so traumatic that the victims felt unsafe in their own home.

The victims were present during the sentencing. Lee was granted the request to address them.

Lee told the victims that he was sorry for what he had done and asked that they forgive him for his past actions.

"I'm sorry for my past actions. I learned a lot [in prison]. I made bad decisions and I hope to change. I'm really not a bad person, I just got mixed up with the wrong things," he said.

Aside from the imprisonment sentence, Lee will also serve probation after his release, pay restitution of over $1,000, and pay over $500 in court costs. All fines are to be paid in five years following his release.

Lee was arrested on Aug. 21 2017 in As Lito after a surveillance camera led to his identification.

Police said that Lee confessed to the crime and stated he sold some of the stolen items to play poker.

Lee is the same person accused of assaulting his wife and her male friend at the entrance of Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville. The charges in that case were dropped but the prosecution was allowed to refile the case in the future.

According to police, an officer responded to a report of a burglary and theft incident at the home of Taijeron in Garapan on Aug. 2 2017 at night.

The officer learned from Taijeron's wife that a purse she had just put on the table in the home's dining area was gone and the front sliding door was wide open. She immediately called her husband.

The purse contained another purse, a wallet, a bank card, cellphone, car keys, safety deposit keys, house keys, office keys, two passports, and other small items. The total worth of the stolen items was $3,000.

She checked the surveillance camera of a neighbor that captured the suspect's car and she posted the car's photo on her Facebook account. That led to Lee's identification.

Taijeron also remembered that a day or two prior to the burglary, Lee approached him at his house and told him he lived in that same house a while back. Lee then left.

Taijeron said he was somehow confused with Lee's statement as the house used to be a business establishment.

In an interview with Lee at the Department of Public Safety on Aug. 4, 2017, he allegedly confessed to stealing the purse. Lee said was driving south when he passed the Taijeron couple's house and saw, through the sliding door and the blinds, a purse on the table.

Lee said he turned around, parked the car, and went inside the house, and took the purse from the table. Lee said he then drove north, dumped some of the items from the purse into a swamp in Chalan Lau Lau, then played poker in San Jose.

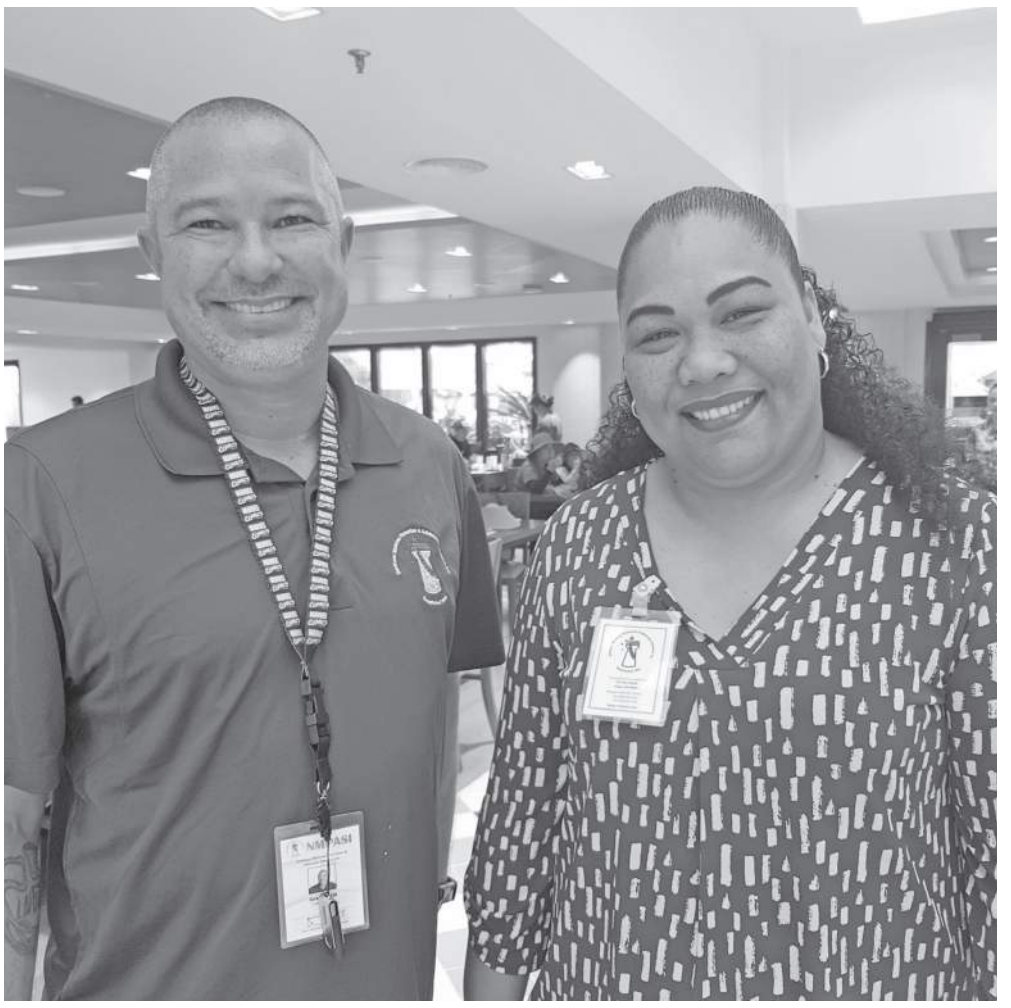
Lee said he proceeded to another poker arcade in Chalan Kanoa, where he sold the purse to a woman for $40. He later went to another poker arcade in San Antonio, where he sold the stolen cellphone for $30.

In a previous robbery that Lee was involved in, a teenager was injured after he was dragged 50 feet away by Lee's car.

In the case against Lee that was dropped, he allegedly committed the crimes of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

NMPASI explains ADA to SHRM members

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT



BEA CABRERA
Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. project specialists Greg Borja and Elsie Tilipao after giving a talk in the rights of persons with disabilities in the workplace at the Society for Human Resources Management NMI Chapter general membership meeting last Friday at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

While many companies and government agencies have their own definition of disability, the requirements are, however, specific under the Americans with Disabilities Act, according to Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. specialists Elsie Tilipao and Greg Borja.

Tilipao and Borja were the guest speakers in Society for Human Resources Management NMI Chapter's general membership meeting held at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Friday.

The presentation focused on Titles I & III of ADA–Title I that tackled employment and Title III that talked about Community Access or Public Accommodation. SHRM membership is composed of employers and business owners and what they can and cannot do under the law was explained.

"An individual to be protected and covered under ADA must meet the definition of disability… It states that an individual must have a physical and mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity and they must have a record of such disability or regarded as having a disability," said Tilipao.

"These persons are protected from being discriminated on from having the opportunity to be gainfully employed by reason of their disability. The law expands the coverage to being denied of equal terms, conditions, and privileges of employment which includes wages, benefits, opportunities, training, advancement, and freedom from harassment," she added.

According to Tilipao, the start of the job application is the beginning of employment relationship between a person with disability and employer and must be transparent with each other.

"A person that meets the definition of disability under ADA must inform or request for accommodation from the employer. At the same time, employer must provide proper accommodation," she said.

Tilipao added that a person with disability is protected by ADA at the start of the application up to the time of termination and discrimination charges can be filed in Equal Opportunity Commission on Saipan.

Title III talks about Community Access or Public Accommodation that focuses on private businesses and entities that provides public access which should include accessibility of person with disability.

"We at NMPASI also want to make sure that there is no discrimination going on when it comes to private businesses providing service to the community. Architectural standards and effective communication are two important factors when it comes to providing public accommodations," Borja said.

"Architectural barriers are basically any feature or hazard that you want to remove because it prevents somebody especially persons with disability to have access… effective communications…people with communication disabilities whether inability to speak, hear, vision impaired we want to make sure we can communicate with them effectively like providing auxiliary aids and services like sign language, television monitors with interpreters, or have a pencil and paper out," he added.

Borja said that accommodation to service animals is starting on island and business owners must be aware of this to prevent discrimination charges. "Service animals are typically dogs that are trained to perform a specific task in order to assist somebody and support them in their disability."

"For private business owners, if you see a service animal, legally, there are only two questions that you can ask that person. First, 'Is that service animal required because of your disability? And second, 'what work or task is that animal trained for?'"

Borja said assessment by NMPASI is available to business owners. "We have had businesses come in and this is something that is available to the community."

"We do assessments, study the accessibility of your business, and we will use the standards and anything we find deficient compared to the standards. We will write you a letter stating this is what you should look at," he added.

For more information about NMPASI's advocacies and community outreach services, contact Greg Borja at (670)2357273 or email gborja@nmapsi.org.

JKPL to hold February Kidz Camp

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be holding a free, fun-filled February Kidz Camp this coming February. The camp will take place on three Saturdays—Feb. 9, 16, and 23, 2019, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

February Kidz Camp is an exciting way to encourage learning, literacy, and laughs. Examples of activities will include arts and crafts, dance, computer activities, and more. February Kidz Camp is open to children ages 6-12, and the child must have a library card free of fees and fines. Registration is required—registration will open from Jan. 15 to 31 (Tuesday-Friday 10:30am-5:30pm, Saturday 9:30am-3:30pm) at the front circulation desk. Sessions are limited, so be sure to sign up quickly. For more information about February Kidz Camp, contact librarians Rosalinda, Celina, or Leora at (670) 235-7323/22, or email them at rosalindaulloajkpl@gmail.com, foremancelina@gmail.com, or leorasablanjkpl@gmail.com, respectively.

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu and Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

Programs and activities are sponsored by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and are made possible by IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-18-0052-18 and IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-01-18-0058-18. ***(PR)***

4.6-magnitude temblor shakes CNMI

A 4.6-magnitude earthquake jolted the Northern Islands just the coast of Anatahan last Monday morning.

According to a release from the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, at about 1:49am on Jan. 28 a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 4 kilometers southwest of Anatahan located in the Northern chain of the Marianas Islands.

CNMI EOC reported that there were no reports of personnel injuries or damage to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

ARMATECH
CCTV Camera System Services & Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Island's Trio Joe & Duo L-Princess Company, LLC
Located at 99 Cents Supermarket Bldg., Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone Nos.: (670) 233-8463 / (670) 989-4247

Chow Time
Restaurant & Catering
For Dining & Catering services, we are open for business 24 hours daily.
and
SUPER A PLUS
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Our company provides high quality maintenance services.
Thank you and we are always happy to serve you!
Our company truly appreciate your continued support!
We wish you all the best this year and the years ahead!

Seed funding expires for language immersion project

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The last language immersion excursion for kindergarten students of the Kagman Elementary School Friday morning marked the last few instances for kindergarten students as the federal funding grant for the program expires this fiscal year.

Patricia Kapileo, project director of the Leliyal Akkabwung Language Immersion Project for the Kagman Elementary School, said in an interview that this fiscal year 2019 would be the last they would receive about $236,000 annually from the Administration for Native Americans seed funding grant. According to her the Public School System matches the ANA seed funding grant by 20 percent annually.

Kapileo noted that the seed fund allowed the program to function for about three years—one year was for recruiting qualified staff and the next two years, including this year, would be for the execution of the program.

"We cater to kindergarten students," Kapileo noted. She added that last Friday, the program brought 25 students from KES to the Saipan Aging Office for their language immersion. 15 students enrolled to the program for Chamorro and 10 for Carolinian.

"We bring them [to the Saipan Aging Office] because the activity of the project is to mingle and have our youth collaborate with our elders because they are the experts in our language on our culture," Kapileo said, adding that they bring the children around the island as well as to different government agencies.

She noted that with the ANA grant funding expiring this year, she wishes PSS picks up with what has been started.

"This project is aimed at instilling, promoting, and sustaining our language and our culture. We would like to get [the] support…to continue the project because this is one venue that will keep our dying language and culture," she said.

Kapileo noted that talks between the program heads and PSS had been ongoing, however nothing was reportedly set in stone yet.

"ANA brought in the seed money for three years, and we are hopeful that the PSS would pick it up from there. We also hope that…local appropriations would be allocated for some funds to really take off this project," she said.

In a separate interview, CNMI Aging Office executive director Walter Manglona noted that the interaction between the students and the *man'amko* was something that promotes culture to the younger generation.

"Any kind of inter-generation type of activities that would help promote culture and teach history to the students—there is no other source that is more [proficient] than the elders that have lived through it," Manglona said.

CNMI govt, ex-DOC officials dismissed from Manila's suit in official capacities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed the CNMI government and former Department of Corrections commissioners Robert A. Guerrero and Georgia Cabrera and former acting DOC commissioner Jose K. Pangelinan in their official capacities from the lawsuit filed by inmate Reynaldo A. Manila.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said because the Commonwealth and any official capacity defendants are immune from suit for damages under Section 1983, the claim against them must be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Section 1983 is the statute that creates a remedy for violations of federal violations of federal rights committed by persons acting under color of state law.

Manglona said because amendment to the lawsuit would be futile, the dismissal is with prejudice.

Dismiss with prejudice means that Manila can no longer re-file the claims against the CNMI government, Guerrero, Pangelinan, and Cabrera in their official capacities.

Manglona, however, noted that Manila's amended complaint clearly describes deliberate indifference to serious medical needs, even if it doesn't say so in so many words.

The judge said Manila's claim and relief sought equally and clearly signal that the named officials are sought to be held personally liable for their actions.

For that reason, Manglona said, she will not dismiss Guerrero, Pangelinan, and Cabrera from the lawsuit at this juncture.

Manglona, however, granted Cabrera's motion for a more definite statement and order Manila to file a second amended complaint supplying the missing information.

Manglona said all that Cabrera and the court need to know is whether Manila really means to sue the named DOC officials only in their official capacities.

The judge gave Manila no later than Feb. 21, 2019 to file the second amended complaint.

She said a second amended complaint placed in outgoing prison mail by Feb. 21 will be considered timely filed in the clerk receives it after that date.

In his amended complaint he filed pro se or without a lawyer, Manila, an inmate in DOC, alleges that DOC officers unreasonably delayed in sending him off-island for eye surgery—first for retinal detachment of his left eye, then for cataracts in his right eye.

In September 2016, Manila was told that acting DOC commissioner Georgia Cabrera was aware of his condition but refused to approve the surgery because his condition was not life-threatening.

He alleges that while on work assignments, Cabrera harassed him and wrongly disciplined him. Even after a Saipan eye doctor for a third time urged cataract surgery in July 2017, Cabrera refused.

When DOC commissioner Vince Attao approved the surgery in August 2017, Cabrera disagreed.

In October 2017, Cabrera refused to issue Manila extra toilet paper, which he needed to wipe his eye. In November 2017, he grieved mistreatment by Cabrera to Attao.

In January 2018, Manila had eye surgery in Guam, performed by a doctor at Pacific Retinal.

Subsequent medical reports indicated that the overall prognosis for his vision was only slight improvement. Manila complains that the delays in treatment caused by Cabrera and other DOC officials may result in his permanent blindness and have caused him prolonged pain and suffering.

He asked the court to find the defendants liable to pay him "general, consequential and compensatory damages" in an unspecified amount.

The CNMI government filed a motion to correct misjoinder and motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Cabrera also filed a motion for a more definite statement.

Manglona granted the motions to correct misjoinder and for a more definite statement.

Manglona granted the motion to dismiss, although not on grounds of sovereign immunity, as the Commonwealth urges, but because the Commonwealth is not a "person" within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.

The CNMI asserts that its DOC lacks the capacity to sue and be sued, and that DOC therefore is not a party to this action.

Invoking Rule 21 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, it asks the court to drop DOC from the lawsuit and to add the CNMI as a proper party defendant.

Manglona said because CNMI law has not given DOC the capacity to sue and be sued, Manila cannot prosecute an action against that department.

Manglona agrees with the CNMI that the proper party is the Commonwealth, and to it will be added as a defendant and the caption in the case will be amended accordingly.

The Commonwealth, now substituted for DOC, asserts that it and the official capacity defendants enjoy "sovereign immunity against suits for damages in federal court" and must, therefore, be dismissed from this action.

Manglona said in his amended complaint, Manila does not state whether he brings his claims under Commonwealth law or federal law (or both).

Manglona said this omission is not fatal, for in a complaint a plaintiff is "not required to state the statutory or constitutional basis for his claim, only the facts underlying it."

Still, the judge said, any Commonwealth civil rights claim that Manila might assert would have to be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Manglona said in his amended complaint, Manila made it clear he is seeking only damages, not injunctive relief.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-002-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January, 22 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Tinian International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-003-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 22, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-004-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 22, 2019,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Alleged child molester pleads not guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who allegedly molested a 6-year-old girl pleaded not guilty to all the charges made against him.

During an arraignment hearing Monday, 28-year-old Peter Aldan entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of sexual assault of a minor in the second degree made against him. Aldan entered his plea in front of Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja.

Aldan is set for a status conference on Feb. 27, at 9am.

Aldan was arrested back on Jan. 4, 2019 after he reportedly touched the minor girl inappropriately.

According to detective David Hosono's declaration, Aldan was arrested at his household after a witness reported the sexual assault.

Hosono said that on Jan. 4, at about 10:22pm, police responded to a reported sexual assault of a minor complaint. At the scene, police were met with the victim's mother

The mother of the victim told police that at about 9:50pm on Jan. 4, she walked past one of the bedrooms in the household and observed Aldan on the bed with the victim.

The mother said that she saw Aldan pull his hand out of the victim's pants and raised her voice at Aldan asking him what he was doing.

Aldan told the mother that he was not doing anything, but the victim later told her mother that Aldan touched her inappropriately.

The mother said she then took her four children into their car and waited for police to arrive at the scene.

The victim is a relative of Aldan's girlfriend.

Last Jan. 7, the Superior Court imposed a $10,000 bail on Aldan

Artifacts discovery halts some work at Marine base on Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Construction work stopped in part of the new U.S. Marine Corps base on Guam after artifacts were discovered.

A contracted archaeologist identified the artifacts last week, finding prehistoric items and items from the late 1800s, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The military has proposed to careful excavation of the items, which include rock tools and pottery fragments, said Al Borja, environmental director for Marine Corps Activity Guam.

The military has as a duty to curate the items, meaning they will be placed in an approved facility after they are collected and studied, Borja said.

The area where construction was halted represents only a small portion of the overall project, said Kelly Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for Marine Corps Activity Guam. Construction in that area will resume when the archaeological investigation is completed.

The military contracts an archaeologist to monitor construction work and ground disturbance, Borja said. A cultural repository is currently under construction at the University of Guam. The repository will store the artifacts found as the new base in Dededo is built.

The military will take comments from Guam officials and adjust plans for the artifacts as necessary, Borja said.

"The Department of the Navy respects the rich cultural heritage of Guam and remains committed to the cultural and historical preservation of the island," Marine Corps Activity Guam said in the statement.

NPR's Greene to speak at UOG lecture series

The University of Guam welcomes David Greene, journalist and host of National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" and co-host of NPR's morning news podcast, "Up First," as the 38th speaker in its Presidential Lecture Series. The lecture will be held from 2pm to 3pm this Friday, Feb. 1, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Lecture Hall on the UOG campus. Greene is coming to Guam for the 25th anniversary of KPRG, Guam's public radio station that is a member of NPR.

Greene

Greene will touch on major parts of his career, including two years as a Moscow-based foreign correspondent covering stories from Ukraine to Siberia and four years reporting from the White House and five continents while covering President George W. Bush's second term. He will also discuss media today and the current political environment.

"We have all heard David Greene on NPR bringing us his perspective on news stories from around the world, and we are honored to host him on campus for our local community to hear firsthand of his experiences and insights," said UOG President Thomas W. Krise.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Greene is the host of National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" as well as NPR's morning news podcast, "Up First," with Steve Inskeep and Rachel Martin. Prior to taking on these roles in 2012, Greene served as a foreign correspondent based in Moscow covering the region from Ukraine and the Baltics, east to Siberia, and as a White House correspondent during President George W. Bush's second term. He is a 1998 graduate from Harvard University with a degree in government and was the recipient of the 2011 Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize from WBUR and Boston University for his coverage on the Arab Spring. His full biography can be viewed here.

The University of Guam Presidential Lecture Series was launched by former UOG President Robert A. Underwood in 2009 as a venue for distinguished and diverse guest speakers to share their unique observations and thoughts with the University community. The University has welcomed more than 30 lecturers, which include activists, scientists, entrepreneurs, poets, public servants, dignitaries, and professional athletes. For more information and to view videos of the lectures, visit www.uog.edu/psl. ***(PR)***

KIA
Introducing the
2019 KIA Sportage
with
$3,000 OFF
or
$1,000
CASH BACK*
2019 KIA SEDONA
8 PASSENGER VAN
IN STOCK LX & EX TRIMS
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com
Like us on Facebook
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • See dealer for details • While Supplies last
2019 KIA SPORTAGE LX 2WD and 4WD $1,000 cashback on approved credit*. Offer ends January 31, 2019

TO MEET DEMAND OF SPRING BREAK, GOLDEN WEEK HOLIDAY

United Airlines adds extra sections for Japan route

TAMUNING, Guam—United Airlines announced its plans for extra sections to meet the demand for travel during the upcoming Spring Break and Golden Week holiday period in Japan. United added nine extra flights on Boeing 737 aircraft between Tokyo, Narita and Guam, beginning on March 31, 2019 (March 31, April 2, April 5, April 28, April 29, May 1, May 2, May 4, and May 5). These flights will add more than 1,300 seats each way between Tokyo and Guam. This year's Golden Week holiday is expected to last 10 days from April 27 through May 6.

United reintroduced the Boeing 777-200 aircraft on two of three daily flights between Guam and Tokyo's Narita International Airport through March 30, 2019. During the upcoming non-peak season from April 1 through July 31, a Boeing 737 aircraft will be used for all three daily flights. United will once again reintroduce B777s on two of its three daily flights beginning August 1, 2019 though the end of the Winter Season on March 30, 2020. The reintroduction of the B777s during this period will offer customers nearly 900 daily seats each way between Tokyo and Guam.

"We are extremely pleased to offer our customers more opportunities to travel between Tokyo, Narita and Guam during the Spring and Golden Week holidays," said Sam Shinohara, United managing director of Asia/Pacific Airport Operations. "We continue to monitor the Guam market closely and adjust accordingly to the demand for travel in a very timely manner. We are committed to working with local stakeholders and the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) to boost traffic to Guam. Supporting the recovering Japan market has been a top priority for our sales teams."

Due to a strong demand for travel between Nagoya, Japan and Guam after the Winter period, United will continue to offer 11 weekly flights between the two cities. This schedule will continue to meet the strong demand for leisure travel to Guam and provide customers with convenient morning and evening departure times.

GVB president and CEO Jon Nathan Denight said, "We thank United for their unwavering support and commitment to the Guam market with the addition of the new segments and quickly adjusting to the demand for travel to Guam. We will continue to work very closely with the United team in Guam and Japan to fill these seats so we can sustain the capacity and frequency we enjoy during peak travel seasons."

United Airlines and United Express operate approximately 4,800 flights a day to 353 airports across five continents. In 2018, United and United Express operated more than 1.7 million flights carrying more than 158 million customers. United is proud to have the world's most comprehensive route network, including U.S. mainland hubs in Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark/New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. United operates 770 mainline aircraft and the airline's United Express carriers operate 559 regional aircraft. The airline is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to 193 countries via 28-member airlines. For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter or connect on Facebook. The common stock of United's parent, United Continental Holdings, Inc., is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol "UAL." ***(PR)***

Dr. Kasai appointed WHO regional director for Western Pacific

MANILA, Philippines—Dr. Takeshi Kasai was confirmed Saturday as the World Health Organization regional director for the Western Pacific by the WHO Executive Board in Geneva, Switzerland.

"I am grateful for the trust placed in me by WHO Member States and deeply honoured to serve as Regional Director for the Western Pacific," said Kasai. He underscored the importance of making WHO even more responsive to countries' needs in a world where rapid economic, environmental and social changes are affecting the lives and health of the Region's nearly 1.9 billion people.

Kasai said he plans to build on the decade of leadership and legacy of the outgoing regional director Dr. Shin Young-soo: "For more than seven decades, countries have counted on WHO to work with them to solve a variety of public health challenges. My predecessor, Dr. Shin Young-soo, transformed WHO in this region, making it more people-centered and country-oriented. We must continue to evolve as an organization—building on past accomplishments while being closely attuned to new realities on the ground."

Challenges in the region

Kasai said he will reinforce support in three key areas that member states have identified as priorities for the future: health security, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and ageing, and environmental and climate change.

"We must keep the region safe from new and re-emerging disease threats. We don't know when or where the next pandemic will arise, but it will happen," he said. "All countries must be prepared, regardless of their size or stage of development."

Populations are ageing, and NCDs—such as heart disease and diabetes—are already the leading cause of death and disability in the Western Pacific Region, he said.

Kasai

"We must develop new approaches that go beyond advocacy and training, including developing health systems that can effectively address the challenges posed by NCDs—as more people are growing old with one or more chronic conditions," added Kasai.

Environmental issues associated with rapid economic development also pose a growing threat, he said. More than 2 million people die in the Western Pacific Region every year as a result of indoor and outdoor air pollution.

"This is a profoundly important issue for countries in our region," Kasai explained. For some Pacific island countries, climate change threatens their very existence, as rising sea levels risk washing away entire islands and atolls.

"These are huge challenges that we must face together, but they are not insurmountable," said Kasai. "And while the future will bring new challenges, at the same time it is full of opportunity – as innovation and new technology make things possible that we couldn't even imagine not so long ago."

Public health champion

A physician by training, Kasai's career in public health began nearly 30 years ago, when he was assigned to a post on the remote northeast coast of Japan, providing health services for the elderly. He saw first-hand the value of building strong health systems from the ground up.

Kasai went on to work at different levels of the public sector in Japan: local hospital, emergency centre, community health centre, prefectural and national government. He helped respond to a series of outbreaks and crises, including avian influenza in Hong Kong SAR (China) and Miyazaki, Japan, and the 1995 Hanshin-Awaji earthquake.

Kasai has worked for WHO for more than 15 years. As director of Programme Management for the last four years, he served as deputy to the regional director.

As a technical officer and later director of the Division of Health Security and Emergencies at the regional office, Kasai was instrumental in developing and implementing the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies, which guides Member States to improve readiness and response in public health emergencies.

Kasai also served as the WHO Representative in Viet Nam from 2012 to 2014. As he concluded his tenure, the government honoured him with the prestigious "For the People's Health" medal in 2014, in recognition of his significant contributions to public health in Viet Nam.

Kasai received his medical degree (MD) from Keio University in 1990; a master's degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 1996; a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene from the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1997; and a doctorate (PhD) in medicine from Iwate Medical University in 2012. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 30, 2001

Moves on to repeal 3-year limit

Works are now underway in the upper house of the CNMI Legislature to repeal a current law that limits the stay of nonresident workers in the Commonwealth to three years, after which they will be barred from coming back until after six months. In an interview with reporters yesterday, Senate Floorleader Pete P. Reyes said a proposal that seeks to eliminate the three-year limit has already been introduced and is currently sitting in the upper chamber for a deeper and thorough review. He stressed that the business community has consistently lobbied against the three-year limit, which was eventually signed into law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in March 1999, citing the measure's possible adverse impact on the local economy in terms of business disruption.

Excluding Saipan Senate mulls new shooting resort bill

Another legislative measure which aims to allow the establishment of shooting resorts on Rota and Tinian are currently being reviewed by the Senate. Sen. Edward Maratita on Friday introduced the proposed measure to accommodate the construction of multi-million shooting resorts on Rota and Tinian to boost the islands' tourism industry and to generate enough government revenues. Under the new bill, Universal Recreational Shooters will equally divide the $25 million-worth of investment between Rota and Tinian where the proposed shooting resorts will be constructed. But Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes disclosed the proposal is currently being evaluated at the committee level to thresh out problems on earlier legislative measure which requires the shooting resorts to be established within the Free Trade Zone.

January 30, 2005

CUC seeks $1.5 million loan from CDA

Pressed for time and money, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the Commonwealth Development Authority for a $1.56-million loan to complete the much-needed upgrade of the Agingan Sewer Treatment Plant Outfall. CUC is requesting the loan in an effort to comply with a Nov. 11, 1999 administrative order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve the quality of water effluent being discharged into the ocean at the Agingan treatment plant. CUC must comply with the order by next month, or it will be subject to a fine of $35,000 per day for each violation. The loan request was made even as CUC pursues funding from the Legislature and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta asked CDA to make the loan available upon completion of the project, which is expected to be on or about June 30, 2005.

CUC to move storage site for chlorine cylinders

Plans are underway to relocate the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s storage site for chlorine cylinders to bring it in compliance with federal safety rules and regulations. The utility firm is looking to move the storage site to the northeast corner of the pole yard where the old CUC building was located, in the wake of a notice of safety/security compliance issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta said she believes the new area is suitable and will be approved by the Coast Guard because it meets the 90-meter minimum distance from the pipeline. She added that another advantage of the proposed site is that it has concrete flooring, saving CUC on the cost of the flooring.

January 30, 2009

Rota casino regs now in effect

The rules and regulations for the casino industry on the island of Rota, published in the Commonwealth Registrar on Dec. 22, 2008, are now in effect, according to a statement issued yesterday by the Rota Casino Gaming Commission. The rules and regulations provide adequate and systematic procedure on investigation and enforcement, which are essential to maintain the integrity of the casino industry on the island, according to the commission. The Commissioners' goal "was to ensure that the rules and regulations are attractive to potential investors and conducive to the operation of casino."

Tinian casino project 're-evaluated' due to federalization

Bridge Investment Group LLC is now re-evaluating its plan to build a $40 million to $50 million casino and condominiums project on Tinian based on the global economic crunch and the federal takeover of CNMI immigration by June.

The firm has halted construction at the project site. Phillip Mendiola-Long, executive vice president of Bridge Investment Group-CNMI operations, yesterday said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's regulations excluding China from the list of countries granted a visa waiver to enter the CNMI will have an impact on the project. Bridge Investment secured a license to operate a casino on Tinian in 2005. It earlier planned to build a $200 million project on Tinian, but scaled it down to $40 million-$50 million in early 2008.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and two (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera and MAS 90; Preferably with Night Audit experience and must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of five (5) years work experience with at least one (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera System, MAS 90, Kronos Payroll System and Web Cash Management System. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Must be knowledgeable on Property Management System (PMS) – Opera. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER
Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. a Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office and the use of Micros point-of-sale systems. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BANQUET MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years work experience in coordinating banquet events and functions plus three (3) years of managerial / supervisory experience. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent to work experience in the hotel industry and events. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills and have the ability to lead a team. Must have previous work experience as a server in a first class operation. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(4) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year of related work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of five (5) years of bartender experience, with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must be at least 21 years old. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays

(5) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) CHEF DE CUISINE
Minimum of three (3) years relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards, and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(6) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Minimum IT industry experience (5yearsminimum) and Bachelor's Degree in IT related field required; thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required, this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2017 & Oracle database administration skills and corporate anti-virus software, Access data base and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Must have an experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP / IP,PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration, switches and fiber is required. Applicant must have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support, System backups and general network administration. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business are also essential. A+, Network+, and / or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

(12) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) COOK – THAI CUISINE
Minimum of two (2) years work experience in preparing Thai and Asian cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR
Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES)
Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in the electrical/electronic fields and the ability to demonstrate high proficiency in these areas is required. A thorough knowledge of electrical / electronic components and equipment including the use of special instruments for diagnostic purposes is required. Skill-level requirements vary from troubleshooting to board- or component-level repair. Willing to work any shift and overtime as required. Applicants must be versed in all aspects of the "Clubmate" position. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF
Minimum of six (6) years of progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have at least two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(6) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Must have at least three (3) years related work experience in Food & Beverage service, two (2) years of supervisory experience, plus one (1) year relevant work experience in coordinating events; Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN
Minimum of six (6) month's work related experience is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN (KOREAN MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) month work related experience is required. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and Korean. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent Leadership with written and oral communication skills is necessary. Must have the ability to manage all aspects of the Front Office operations, including a Guest Relation, Call Center, and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to formulate Front Office Budget, monitor Profit and Loss. Must have the ability to set an upsell program and work as part of the Yield Management team in maximize revenue for the hotel. Must have computer knowledge on as Property Management System (PMS) - Opera. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of two (2) years hospitality experience. Must have the ability in providing hotel guests with above and beyond service to ensure their experience will be worth remembering. Must have cheerful personality in meeting guest upon arrival and bids them farewell as they leave. Must be able to make strong and accurate decisions, negotiations and problem solving skills. Must have cashiering experience and computer literacy. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of I.T. industry experience and Bachelor's degree in IT related field required. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and Server Operating Systems, Microsoft application support, Opera System, SQL 2017 & Oracle database, MAS90 Accounting System, administration skills, Corporate Anti-virus software, Access database, Crystal Report XI and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Must have an experience of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, SPAM and Virus Firewall, IP Surveillance Systems, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of Mitel IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable. Should be knowledgeable in utilizing a hotel database. Must have a thorough working knowledge of web programming and systems analysis. Must have general management ability as well as specific knowledge of the company's computer/network systems. Must be able to communicate with all department heads in the company that require computer and network systems. Must be able to translate the requirements of each department into a workable computer operation. Must keep up with new developments in computers, Networking and (VOIP) voice over IP equipment. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business.

(1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years of related work experience in a similar role working at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to utilize or operate landscaping tools and equipment. Previous experience in executing landscaping-related project is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) LAUNDRY SUPERVISOR
Closely coordinates with the Executive Housekeeper in the form of instructions as to overall functions, advice on non-routine problems encountered, or verbal and written work assignments. Minimum of two (2) years housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self-starter with the ability to clean public areas, as required. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(2) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) MUSICIAN
Minimum two (2) years experience as a musician; Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian; Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis; At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. May be subject to audition.

(1) NIGHT AUDITOR
Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience and academic background with major in Accounting Business knowledge on the basic functions of debits and credits. Knowledge on hotel-related systems particularly on front-office systems and point-of-sale systems of the hotel industry. Strong knowledge of Excel and must be knowledgeable in using Opera System and Micros System; Familiarity on how the hotel settlement system works (cash, room charge, credit card transaction or similar). Must be able to work from 11:00pm to 7:00am; May involve shift work, including working on weekends and holidays.

(1) PAINTER
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience as a painter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) PASTRY COOK
Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER
Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) PLUMBER
Minimum of five years related work experience; must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(3) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE CAPTAIN
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience working at a hotel in a similar role is required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training is preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ROOM ATTENDANT
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) S.E.A SCHEDULER/CLUBMATE
Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard with a minimum of three years of experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Word and be proficient with Microsoft Excel, with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the S.E.A Scheduler. Applicants must be versed in the operations and rotations of the S.E.A department. Position will be asked to work various shifts in the hotels' waterpark, so sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

(1) RESERVATIONS COORDINATOR (KOREAN MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) years' experience working in Front Desk or Reservations for a hotel, preferably in hospitality; Must be able to use Microsoft Excel and hotel reservation system; Must be able to understand, speak, read, write English and Korean language. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(5) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 5, 2019.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 20

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Legislature should limit vaccine exemptions

The ongoing outbreak of measles in Clark County should prompt state legislators to finally correct Washington's loose policy surrounding mandatory vaccinations.

Washington is one of only 18 states that lets parents opt out of having their child vaccinated because of personal, moral or other beliefs, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The high rate of people taking advantage of this philosophical exemption in certain areas is detrimental to the health of their communities.

It is not an option that should exist. The law already allows children to be exempted from required vaccinations if they have a valid medical condition, or if the vaccinations conflict with their family's religious beliefs.

But the option to dodge required immunizations based solely on a parent's "philosophical or personal objection" is one that puts too many children at risk. It also endangers others whose immune systems are compromised, including people with conditions such as cancer, HIV and type 1 diabetes.

Though an effort to change the law failed in 2015, Washington lawmakers should try again.

Of the 30 confirmed measles cases in Clark County, 26 of those infected were not immunized against the highly contagious disease, the county health department said Friday. Those numbers are likely to grow — last week, a measles case in King County was linked to the Clark County outbreak. On Friday, Gov. Jay Inslee declared the outbreak a statewide emergency.

Meanwhile, only about three out of four Clark County school students received all their required vaccinations last year, according to school district data. That is a much worse rate than throughout the rest of the state and King County, where more than 88 percent of students had all their vaccinations.

Even that rate is too low, given that scientific studies have repeatedly shown vaccines are safe and effective at combating infectious disease.

Still, anti-vaccination sentiment pervades plenty of local communities. The Vashon Island School District, for instance, ranks among the school districts with the highest number of families claiming the personal exemption, with 16.3 percent using it to decline one or more vaccinations for their children.

State Rep. Paul Harris, R-Vancouver, is sponsoring legislation to eliminate the personal exemption for the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. His bill would not apply to other required immunizations, however, including ones designed to prevent the spread of pertussis, meningitis and hepatitis B.

Harris' bill is an important start, given how easily measles can spread. But the Legislature should eliminate the personal exemption more broadly, so that it can no longer be used to avoid any mandatory childhood vaccinations.

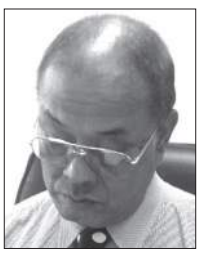
Lawmakers must decide to be the adults in the room. They should no longer let parents avoid vaccinating their children based on philosophical objections that are wholly detached from science.

©2019 The Seattle Times

OK...OK...Let's negotiate !!!
No way... ONLY if you agree to be impeached or resign! Then we can negotiate!
Schumer
Pelosi
GOVT. WORKERS
GOVT. WORKERS
©2019 JAMBLE- KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/HEARST

Futtunan Empleau

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Mas ti seguru futtunan 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble. Dos masusede mina makat ma-akude este na asuntu:

1. Poduñg ekonomia pot iran pagyu. 2. Hiniyuñg man-dañkulu siha na bisnis (investors) Japones guine.

Gi hilu` este maliñgu mas ke $14 Biyon ginen iya Marianas. Problema i ekonomian iya Marianas estake una`lu tatte gi kase dos, tres añus na tiempu.

Kulan man-silensiu i boysis haf` planun niha para umasatba este na chinatsaga. Dispues de kantida na maliñgu haf` mas na insuttu kontra inbetsionistan Japones?

Kuantu mohon na fondu ha nesessita empleau guine na kategoria para u fan ma-ayuda ginen pinadesen suetdun popble?

Faktu na `an guaha adelantu gi ekonomian i tanu` mas bula cho`chu` yan libre hatsadan suetdun empleau. Malag manu` i adelantu siha ni man-mafama gi gaseta kontodu guine gi alacha?

I asuntu didog kontra 15-mit mas na familia ni man-maluñu` pot diskuidun man-ma`gas. Mauleg ha` este mata`lun ma-upus?

Dispues pinatlinuye este `nai sige inbetsionistan (investors) Japones ni dumiñgu Marianas. Guaha $14 biyon na maliñgu guine na tiru. Manu `nai para ta soda`e este fondu? Gaige i asuntu gi dos patman kanai miyu!

■■■

Sapet: Konsidera pot un` ratu kumu unu hau gi halum este na grupon empleau. Diariu un` fana` ti nahuñg suetdu para un` kubre disiente nesessidat familia-mu. Esta un` u`upus i lañget haf` taimanu na para unna` nahuñge salape monedan familia-mu. Gatdun hau gi halum un` kondision ni sessu maletke ni man-ma`gas.

Hu chage malofan gi mas te`ug na estau pinepble antes ke haf` guaha pa`gu. Pot hu ekspirensia sinparat na sapet mina uma`adiñgan-yu` pot este na problema. Na ti obligasion miyu umadelanta kualidat na lina`la` tautau-ta? Haf` `in petsisige guine na patte? Guaha seriosu planun miyu?

Estague` na asuntu `nai humalum fuetsan kabisiyu gi satbasion mas didog na chinatsagan familia ni `in represesenta. Haf` na ineppe guaha ginen hamyu? I modun silensiu ti propiu na ineppe. Debi u guaha estudiau na planu taimanu `nai para `in lagnus i tautau-ta ginen pinepblen diskuidun miyu!

■■■

Sentimentu: Mauleg na tautau hu adiñgane haf` unu `sino dos asuntu ni umestotba siha diariamente?

Ya hululu` pot suetdu! Guaha 15-mit gumagana suetdun popble (poverty income) pa`gu, segun ripot gaseta.

Makat gi maseha haye na familia piot `nai guaha obligasion apas guma` yan kareta. Dispues de este na obligasion taya` sopbla para otru siha nesessidat niha. Komprendiyun! Suetdun popble (poverty) segun i federal guideline gaige entalu` $15-mit yan $42-mit gi sakan.

I minetgut monedan familia dinetemimina gi kuantu guaha na numeron tautau gi kada guma`. Ni achog` un` gagana $42-mit gi sakan ya ochu guaha gi familia makat na kontrariu unna` nahuñg nesessidat todu. Antes de este gaige obligasion apas guma, kareta, yan otru siha asuntu.

Un` asuntu ni debi manma`gas i tanu` uma-atetuye sin ditension. Kualidat linala` familia i dichu asuntu guine kumu obligasion i manma-elihe.

■■■

Kuttura: Sessu hu huñgug akonsehun proteksion kuttura ginen `nos kuantus man-mehnalum. Hu akanteha para bai komprende haf` i man-sañgan. Gueku!

Kontodu ayu i ti tumuñgu` kutturaña ume`esalau proteksion kutturan natibu. Ke lau haf` maliñgu-ta na guaha este siha na abisu? Magahet na seriosu na aminasu guaha kontra kuttura-ta? Siña `in esplika este para bai komprende fuera de `in ta`lun umatisa gueku na sentimentu?

Kutturan natibu mau`udai gi un` palabra. Repara sa` siempre in` seda` sin ditension! Dispues, gaige i asuntu gi dos patman kanai miyu!

■■■

Impottante: Mas iya China ha muebague` para u dispone iya Pasifiku. Ha nana`e ayudu man-dikiki` siha na nasion isla fondu. Mauleg na intension lau gai minakat pot tinahuñg fiñkasña para u kumple planuña. Konsidera na debi una` fañochu 1.2 biyon na tautau diariu.

Gi mismu tiempu mas prisisu iya Guam yan Marianas gi halum geran entalu` Amerikanu yan China. `Nai ti siña ginen hilu` tanu` humanau papa` gi tasi para u li`e haf` guaha gi taduñg na tasin iya Marianas. Un` pinetsige na guiya solu kumomprende gi papa` kinalamten dos fuetsudu na nasion.

Ti namanman na guaha China finatinasña bomb ni hafana`an "Guam Killer" pot gaige lugat militat guihe—Air Force yan Navy. Marianas manadan Boys Scout ni sessu ma-eñgulu` usun flechan goman agaga`. Kase estague` na ti hafatinase hit China bomb para u funas usun flecha.

Katkuet estrakadan nasion kontodu hita manpinalala`e `an ha hoñu` China i balan "Guam Killer". Taya` kampu guine umeskapa. Huli`e fuetsan atomic bomb giya Bikiki ni fumunas enteru un` isla. Dispues tinatiye ni ti masuspecha na pinadese gi tautau ni mansinatpe potbus bomb. Todu u fan matai kanset agaga`. Man-namase`! ###

The exiled court protecting Venezuelan democracy

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg News

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.

For the last year and a half, a second Venezuelan Supreme Court has presided over the country's laws through the miracle of cloud computing. Its 33 jurists live in the U.S., Panama, Colombia and Chile. Every 15 days, they hold court via video conference.

Known as the Supreme Tribunal of Justice for Venezuela in exile, it has referred its country's military leaders to the International Criminal Court at the Hague. It has also sentenced Nicolas Maduro, a man still considered Venezuela's president by Russia, Cuba and China, to 18 years in prison. Until this week, few paid much attention to this court without a country. Its Twitter handle is not even verified.

This tribunal in exile is about to become more relevant. On Jan. 11, it urged Juan Guaido, the leader of the National Assembly, to assume the interim presidency. And just as many democratic nations now recognize his legitimacy, there is momentum to recognize the exiled court, too.

Consider the Jan. 4 declaration from a group of 12 Latin American nations plus Canada, known as the Lima Group, which was formed in response to the Venezuelan crisis. It urged Maduro not to take the oath of office for a second term. It also affirmed the legitimacy of the tribunal in exile, asserting that it was "formed in accordance with the Venezuelan constitution."

Carlos Vecchio, whom the U.S. recognized on Sunday as Venezuela's diplomatic representative in Washington, told me in an interview that the interim government considers this Skype judiciary to be his country's supreme court. The court, he said, has played an important role in guiding the National Assembly through the crisis and has "confirmed what we were doing is constitutional." The tribunal's chief justice, Miguel Angel Martin, told me that the court sees its role as "the guardian of the constitution."

The tribunal had already ruled that Maduro's May re-election was not legitimate. But Jan. 9 marked the end of his first term in office. That was the date when "the illegitimacy of Nicolas Maduro crystalized," Martin said. The tribunal determined that the National Assembly should consider the presidency of Venezuela to be vacant, a precondition for invoking Article 233 of Venezuela's constitution, which made Guaido interim president.

This showdown goes back to 2015, when the opposition won two-thirds of the seats in the National Assembly. Almost as soon as the results came in, Maduro and his party began to delegitimize the legislature. First his loyalists in the National Assembly packed Venezuela's high court in a lame-duck session. Then those judges ruled that Maduro could resurrect a plebiscite originally formed to rewrite Venezuela's constitution under his predecessor, Hugo Chavez. After this "constituent assembly" was formed, the Maduro-packed court invested the body with the powers of the National Assembly, which included appointing justices to the Supreme Court.

In 2017, Maduro decreed that he had the authority to rewrite the constitution. (This stands in contrast with Chavez, who changed the constitution through referendum in 1999 and tried and failed to do so again in 2007.)

In response, the National Assembly appointed its own justices to that court. Maduro threatened to arrest many of them, and the judges fled. Since July 2017, the full tribunal in exile, as well as its executive committee, has been meeting in cyberspace.

Now this high court is guiding a democratic transition in Venezuela, using a constitution amended to consolidate the Chavista revolution. It makes for a precious irony. "Maduro's ouster from office will be the result of processes spelled out in the constitution promulgated by his predecessor," says Thor Halvorssen, the Venezuelan-born president of the New York-based Human Rights Foundation. Venezuela's strong man, one might say, is being hoisted on his mentor's petard.

How do Democrats negotiate with a president who will build his wall regardless?

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

It's never easy to tell whether President Donald Trump is staking out a negotiating position or drawing a line in the sand. But the comments he and his acting chief of staff made over the weekend about the border-security negotiations sound like Trump really is dug in on his wall project.

The predictable outcome is that Trump will declare a national emergency and shift money from some other budget items into wall construction. That's because congressional Democrats have already shown that they simply will not put up the $5.7 billion the president demands for that project.

The possibility of Trump acting unilaterally, though, adds an extra layer of complexity to the bipartisan negotiations going on now over funding for border security. More on that in a second.

Yes, there's been intransigence on both sides. And yes, a deal seems within easy reach — but only if Democrats could countenance some wall-building in places where it makes sense, and only if Trump could accept that walls wouldn't do much to solve the manifest problems with U.S immigration policy.

Trump appeared to lay the groundwork for such a deal in his speech on Friday, when he emphasized that he was looking for a physical barrier only in high-priority areas specified by border security experts. But his stance hardened almost immediately thereafter, probably in response to all the headlines and commentary about him "caving" to end the partial government shutdown. Hence the messaging that he was ready to shut down the government again if he doesn't get the full $5.7 billion for wall construction.

That's an empty threat. Having seen the damage to his reputation and the economy from the first shutdown, Trump isn't foolish enough to do it again. (I hope.) As much as he threatens another shutdown if he doesn't get his way, he has to know it would be political suicide (and toxic to at least some congressional Republicans, as they have no doubt already impressed upon the administration).

But it's even harder to imagine Trump accepting a deal that looks like the one the Senate crafted last year, which put a lot of money into border security but not the wall. The wall is a pain point for Trump, just as it is for many Democrats who oppose it. So the president seems destined to test the limits of executive power by declaring a national emergency (which he has extremely broad authority to do) and then fund the wall project with money Congress appropriated for something else (which is legally dicier).

What a horrible precedent that would set! Not that Trump, for all his complaints about the Obama administration's use of executive orders and regulatory authority, has ever worried about pushing the boundaries of presidential power too far.

Plenty of good arguments have been made already about whether such a move by Trump could survive the legal challenge that would be sure to come. At the moment, though, the more interesting question is whether the lawmakers and congressional leaders now negotiating over border-security funds are being played for suckers.

On the one hand, they're trying to craft a deal on border-security funding that is generous enough to the White House's position that it wins Trump's favor. On the other hand, they know that Trump may sign it and then declare an emergency anyway if they don't give him as much as he wants to spend on the wall.

That's a tough position to be in if you're an opponent of the wall. It's heads Trump wins, tails you lose — unless the courts strike down the president's rewriting of congressional appropriations. Lower court judges have been willing to rein in this president for playing fast and loose with federal law, but would a Supreme Court dotted with justices who have a permissive view of executive power?

And another thing! Americans have become a big bunch of complainers

By PATRICK T. REARDON
Chicago Tribune

Patrick T. Reardon, the author of eight books, is completing a book on the significance of the elevated Loop to Chicago.

I want to complain about complaining.

Wait, let me rephrase that. I'd like to make some observations about the tendency of modern Americans to find fault with just about anything.

First things first, I'm not lobbying for a Pollyanna-ish approach to life. Lord knows there is enough pain, corruption, wrongheadedness, wickedness, oppression, lying and sheer stupidity in the world. We all have to take up our cudgels against such evils with righteous anger and complaint — and action.

What I'm looking at, however, is the epidemic of grumbling in American life, the way we've gotten into the knee-jerk habit of moaning and denouncing and criticizing. I do it. You do it. We all do it.

Many on the right contend that liberals are always getting offended and stamping around in high dudgeon, but I'd suggest conservatives are very good at that as well. Besides, this isn't something restricted to politics.

Think about it: You're standing in line at the grocery behind a family with two shopping carts full of stuff. If the guy behind you strikes up a conversation, how likely is it that he's going to comment on how pretty the song now playing on the store's sound system is?

Isn't it more probable he's going to huff and puff about the family that's buying so much? Or about how it took him forever to find the toilet paper because "they" moved it to another aisle?

When it snows, a city such as Chicago is suddenly turned from a gritty landscape of skeletal trees amid hard-edge brick and steel structures into a charming white wonderland, the work of nature's artistry. Do people talk about that transformation, though? Not really. When it comes to snow, they're much more apt to lament the time they lost because they had to shovel their walks or gripe about the long, slow commute.

Of course, the longer, slower commute is a pain in the neck. Of course, shoveling snow is an inconvenience on a busy morning. A snowfall can make driving conditions difficult and even dangerous. A snowfall is a threat to seniors and others who aren't all that steady on their feet.

OK, I get it. But complaining doesn't have to be the only response that's possible when we find this blanket of beauty that has been cast over our world. Yet, frequently, it seems that it is.

I'm not really complaining about complaining.

I'm suggesting there is a wide range of human responses to what happens in the world. Complaining is one of those responses, but it doesn't have to be our automatic reaction to everything.

Let's take the guy who is upset because the toilet paper has been moved to another aisle. Instead of saying, "This is bad," he might ask, "Why did they do this?" Trying to understand the decision might give him an insight into the change — perhaps, in the new aisle, the toilet paper is now near paper towels and facial tissue, like with like.

Or, if he looks at the family with all that stuff ahead of him, he doesn't have to grouse about how they are delaying him. If this guy took the time to really see them, he might find entertainment in the way the two 9-year-old boys are babbling about the intricacies of their latest Fortnite game.

I'm thinking that my life is pretty short. Whenever I complain — and I do complain — I'm opting for an angry, even sour way of experiencing things. Sometimes that negativity is necessary. But not all the time.

If I choose to roll with life and keep my eyes open to what is pleasant and hopeful, there is a lot more of my human existence to enjoy.

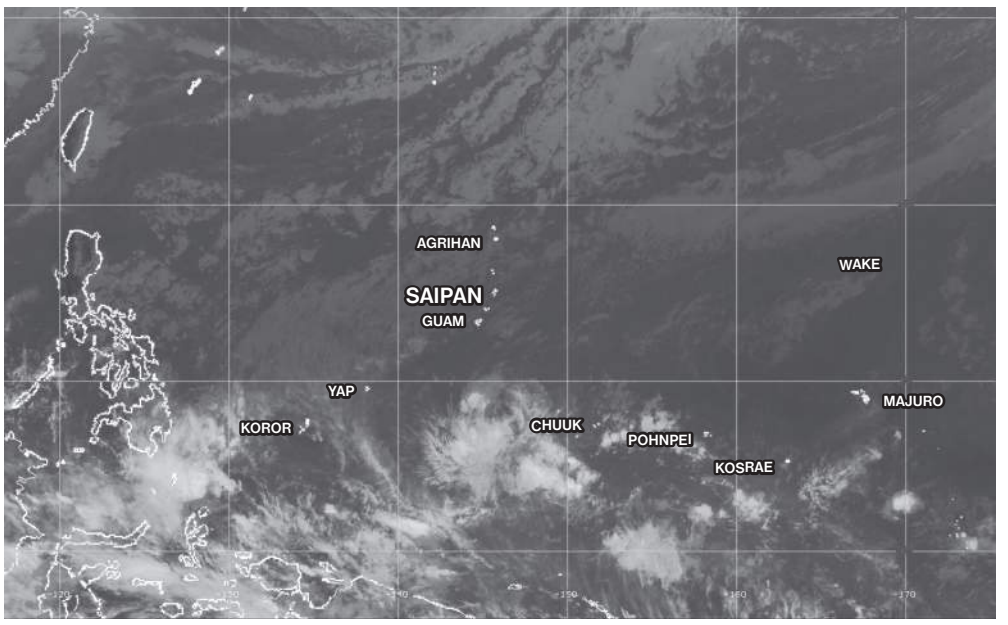
Whether it's new-fallen snow. Or two little boys debating a video game.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:34 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Shear line is still having a major affect on the forecast today. In addition to the increased winds, scattered bands of showers can still be expected over Guam, although they have shifted south of the CNMI. The clouds, showers and winds should all gradually settle down. By the weekend we will be back to dry season as usual. Good news for beachcombers, not so good for forest service fire fighters... it will take a fairly prolonged period of dry weather though before fire weather becomes a true problem.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Windy	84° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	37° / 18°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Miami	Showers	69° / 61°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	30° / 5°
Osaka	Rain	46° / 36°
Paris	Snow Shower	37° / 27°
Busan	Rain	43° / 27°
Rome	Rain	46° / 37°
Salem	Cloudy	47° / 24°
San Francisco	Showers	57° / 49°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	34° / 12°
Tokyo	Showers	52° / 34°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	36° / 8°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:48 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.46
09:23 AM	LOW TIDE	1.13
3:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
10:44 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:15 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:59 AM	1:43 PM	-
Thursday	2:51 AM	2:29 PM	-
Friday	3:43 AM	3:17 PM	-
Saturday	4:33 AM	4:06 PM	-
Sunday	5:22 AM	4:56 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

US charges Chinese tech giant Huawei, top executive

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department unsealed criminal charges Monday against Chinese tech giant Huawei, a top company executive and several subsidiaries, alleging the company stole trade secrets, misled banks about its business and violated U.S. sanctions.

The charges were announced just before a crucial two-day round of trade talks between the United States and China are scheduled to begin in Washington. Trade analysts say they could dim prospects for a breakthrough.

The sweeping indictments accuse the company of using extreme efforts to steal trade secrets from American businesses—including trying to take a piece of a robot from a T-Mobile lab.

The executive charged is Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, who was arrested in Canada last month. The U.S. is seeking to extradite her, alleging she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

David Martin, Meng's lawyer in Canada, didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment. Meng is out on bail in Vancouver and her case is due back in court Tuesday as she awaits extradition proceedings to begin.

Huawei is the world's biggest supplier of network gear used by phone and internet companies and has long been seen as a front for spying by the Chinese military or security services. A spokesman did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment.

The Justice Department charges that Huawei used a Hong Kong shell company to sell equipment in Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. Huawei had done business in Iran through a Hong Kong company called Skycom and alleged that Meng misled U.S. banks into believing the two companies were separate, according to prosecutors.

"As I told high-level Chinese law enforcement officials in August, we need more law enforcement cooperation with China," acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker said at a news conference with other Cabinet officials, including Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. "China should be concerned about criminal activities by Chinese companies—and China should take action."

AP

Acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker, speaks during an announcement of an indictment on violations including bank and wire fraud, Monday, Jan. 28, 2019, of Chinese telecommunications companies including Huawei, at the Justice Department in Washington.

The officials provided details from a 10-count grand jury indictment in Seattle, and a separate 13-count case from prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York.

Among the accusations, prosecutors say Huawei stole trade secrets, including the technology behind a robotic device that T-Mobile used to test smartphones.

Beginning in 2012, Huawei hatched a plan to steal information about T-Mobile's robot, named "Tappy," and Huawei engineers secretly took photos of the robot, measured it and tried to steal a piece of it from T-Mobile's lab in Washington state, according to prosecutors. T-Mobile declined to comment.

The Huawei case has set off diplomatic spats among the United States, China and Canada. President Donald Trump said he would get involved in the Huawei case if it would help produce a trade agreement with China. But Ross said Monday that the indictments are "wholly separate from our trade negotiations with China."

The two countries agreed Dec. 1 to negotiate for 90 days in an effort to defuse worsening trade tensions. Trump has postponed a scheduled increase in U.S. tariffs on $200 billion of Chinese goods from 10 percent to 25 percent during the talks. A breakdown in negotiations would likely lead to higher tariffs, a prospect that has rattled financial markets for months.

Monday's announcement of criminal charges "is certainly not a propitious sign for U.S.-China trade tensions and could hamper prospects for even a partial deal in the coming weeks," said Eswar Prasad, an economics professor and China expert at Cornell University.

There is no allegation Huawei was working at the direction of the Chinese government. In past instances, the U.S. government has singled out Beijing in corporate or digital espionage and has recently charged several Chinese hackers and intelligence officials.

US hits Venezuela with oil sanctions to pressure Maduro

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Monday sanctioned Venezuela's state-owned oil company, ratcheting up pressure on socialist President Nicolas Maduro to cede power to the U.S.-backed opposition in the oil-rich nation in South America.

The action means Maduro's embattled government would lose access to one of its most important sources of income and foreign currency along with around $7 billion in assets of the state-owned company, Petroleos De Venezuela S.A.

Hours after the White House announced the sanctions, Maduro went on state TV and called the U.S. action "immoral, criminal." In words directed at President Donald Trump, he said, "Hands off Venezuela!"

The sanctions follow the unusual decision by more than 20 countries, including the U.S., to recognize the opposition leader of the National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the interim president of Venezuela. Maduro was re-elected last year in an election widely seen as fraudulent. The once prosperous nation has been in an economic collapse, with several million citizens fleeing to neighboring countries.

"We have continued to expose the corruption of Maduro and his cronies, and today's action ensures they can no longer loot the assets of the Venezuelan people," national security adviser John Bolton said at a White House news conference to announce the sanctions with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Bolton said he expects Monday's actions against PDVSA—the acronym for the state-owned oil company—will result in more than $11 billion in lost export proceeds during the next year.

Oil production—the lifeblood of Venezuela's economy—has been collapsing for years. Despite sitting atop the world's largest reserves, Venezuela currently pumps just a third of the 3.5 million barrels a day it did when the late Hugo Chavez took power in 1999.

The nation's refining capacity has also declined because of poor maintenance and lack of skilled personnel. That has left it reliant on Citgo, the Houston-based refining arm of PDVSA, to refine the oil and send gasoline back to Venezuela to meet domestic needs.

"They have just lost that source," said Russ Dallen, managing partner of Caracas Capital, a brokerage company.

Venezuela is very reliant on the U.S. for its oil revenue, sending 41 percent of its oil exports to the U.S. Maduro can divert the roughly 500,000 barrels per day of oil currently being sold to Gulf Coast refineries to markets in Russia, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

Shutdown halted crash probes, could cost critical evidence

DETROIT (AP)—The 35-day partial government shutdown stopped the National Transportation Safety Board from dispatching investigators to 22 accidents that killed 30 people, jeopardizing some perishable evidence, the agency said Monday.

The NTSB will start investigations, but with some crashes now weeks old, critical lost evidence "potentially could prevent determination of probable cause for those accidents," the agency said in a statement.

The safety board determines the cause of transportation accidents and makes recommendations to prevent them. It had to furlough 367 of 397 employees during the 35-day shutdown. Although it recalled four investigators, they worked without pay to support probes of three international aircraft crashes, the statement said.

The accidents with delayed investigations included 15 involving aircraft that caused 21 deaths, two on railroads resulting in two deaths and two highway crashes, one of which killed seven people.

The agency said it couldn't evaluate six other accidents to figure out if it should send investigators.

Work also stopped on more than 1,800 aviation-safety investigations.

The highway crash that killed seven people occurred Jan. 3 on Interstate 75 near Gainesville, Florida. A church van packed with children from Louisiana was headed to Walt Disney World when it got caught in the fiery pileup involving two 18-wheelers. Seven people, including five of the youngsters and two truck drivers, died in the crash.

The other vehicle crash involved a tractor-trailer and a school bus New Jersey in which 15 people were hurt, the NTSB said. In addition, the agency also didn't send investigators to three marine accidents that it would have under normal circumstances, the statement said.

The NTSB is now deciding whether it should send investigators to the crash scenes, or just go directly to wreckage in storage facilities.

"That's going to vary from accident to accident," said spokesman Christopher O'Neil.

NTSB investigators will be hampered in their work by not seeing the crash sites, former NTSB Chairman Mark Rosenker said.

"Those are accidents that we really should have looked at and were not able to do that now because it's gone," he said. "Without physically having an opportunity to look at it yourself, you really don't get the exposure to it."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,528.22	2,643.85	7,085.68
-208.98	-20.91	-79.18
-0.84%	-0.78%	-1.11%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.40	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	66.18
British Pound	0.7604	Indian Rupee	71.11	Singapore Dollar	1.35
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Japanese Yen	109.29	South Korean Won	1116.35
Chinese Yuan	6.74	Malaysian Ringgit	4.11	Swiss Franc	0.99
Euro	0.8747	New Zealand Dollar	1.46	Taiwan Dollar	30.79
		Philippine Peso	52.51	Thailand Baht	31.56

Nation

Church abuse victims wait to see if Legislature will act

AP
In this file photo from Oct. 17, 2018, survivors of child sexual abuse hug in the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa. while awaiting legislation to respond to a landmark state grand jury report on child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Lawmakers have returned to the Pennsylvania Capitol but have yet to revisit legislation on child sexual abuse scandals since an October fight killed a bill that would have allowed long-ago victims to sue the Roman Catholic Church and other institutions.

The Legislature's new two-year session began in earnest Monday, with little mention of legislation reflecting the state attorney general's landmark grand jury report on child sexual abuse in Pennsylvania's Catholic dioceses.

No votes are scheduled and talks are low-key as Pennsylvania's dioceses begin opening temporary victim compensation funds spurred by the grand jury report.

Continued deadlock in the Legislature raises the possibility that now-adult victims will have little option but to apply to a diocese compensation fund—and sign away their right to sue—even if lawmakers later approve legislation giving them another chance to sue.

John Delaney, who has told of his rape as a 12-year-old boy by a priest in the Philadelphia archdiocese, said several people he knows have received offers ranging from $180,000 to $375,000. Delaney, now 48, isn't sure he would accept an offer if it means giving up the right to sue.

"It's not about the money," Delaney said. "It's about holding people accountable for their actions. I want my day in court."

Several other states have approved a window for time-barred victims to sue, and neighboring New York's Legislature approved such a bill Monday.

For Delaney and many other victims in Pennsylvania, including those in the grand jury's Aug. 14 report, state law ended their right to sue decades ago, when they turned 20.

Compensation funds are fine for some victims, victim advocates say. But, they say, they allow the church to control its own punishment, while some victims want the tools offered by a court to force dioceses to divulge what church officials knew about an abuser, and whether they covered it up.

Compensation funds promise a faster payout. Lawsuits take longer but promise bigger payouts, say veteran victims' lawyers.

The grand jury recommended a two-year reprieve, and the bill included provisions to give future victims more time to sue and prosecutors more time to pursue charges.

The Republican-controlled state House of Representatives passed it overwhelmingly, and it had support from Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and Senate Democratic leaders.

However, Catholic bishops and for-profit insurers opposed the two-year window, and a critical mass of the state Senate's Republican majority blocked a floor vote on it.

The legislation collapsed .

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati said he has no plans to restart legislation in his chamber and has had little contact about it since the debate stalled late at night Oct. 17.

"Nobody has picked up the phone to call me since I left here that Wednesday evening of session with a counterproposal," Scarnati, R-Jefferson, said this month. "I have not received anything."

The House now has a new majority leader, Rep. Bryan Cutler, R-Lancaster, who is not as friendly to a two-year window as his predecessor.

Cutler's office said he is discussing a compromise bill with Shapiro's office and other lawmakers.

Philadelphia's archdiocese opened a fund in November, and the Pittsburgh and Scranton dioceses followed suit last week. The dioceses set a deadline of Sept. 30 to apply, and they require someone accepting an offer to forfeit their right to sue later.

The funds are modeled on a system adopted by five New York dioceses in the past two years as a debate raged there over allowing victims a window to sue.

Salvadoran accused of 4 Nevada killings worked for 2 victims

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A 19-year-old Salvadoran man suspected of being in the country illegally was charged Monday with killing four people in Nevada, including a couple who employed him as a landscaper at their Reno home where he fatally shot them with a gun he stole from them earlier, authorities said.

Wilber Ernesto Martinez-Guzman told investigators he used a .22-caliber revolver stolen from the property of 81-year-old Gerald David and 80-year-old Sharon David less than two weeks before he killed them on Jan. 16.

"The lady was coming out. I got scared and shot at her," Martinez-Guzman is quoted telling a Washoe County detective in an affidavit filed in Reno on Monday. It alleged that he first broke into "outbuildings" or a trailer on the sprawling David property on Jan. 3 and Jan. 4 and made off with a cache of rifles and the handgun.

Martinez-Guzman had worked for a landscaping company at the Davids' property for four months, ending last July. It was not immediately clear if the job linked him to two women he is accused of killing in nearby Gardnerville.

The affidavit was used to obtain an arrest warrant for Martinez-Guzman, who was arrested Jan. 19 in Carson City and is jailed there on charges that he possessed weapons and other items stolen from the Davids and sold jewelry belonging to Gerald David and another victim.

Martinez-Guzman admitted also killing Gerald David, and the affidavit alleges that his DNA was found on the .22-caliber gun also used to kill Connie Koontz and Sophia Renken in their homes. Koontz was found dead Jan. 10. Renken's body was found Jan. 13.

The Davids were prominent Reno Rodeo Association members, and Martinez-Guzman is accused of possessing several Western-style belt buckles bearing their names stolen from their home.

Someone using an Apple account belonging to Martinez-Guzman's mother tried to activate an Apple watch stolen from Koontz, the affidavit said.

The mother, identified in the affidavit as Sonia Guzman, hasn't been charged with a crime. She was questioned by immigration authorities following her son's arrest and was given a hearing date, Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said.

Guzman was the registered owner of a 2006 BMW 325i that Martinez-Guzman was driving when he was arrested, and in which authorities say they found the murder weapon.

The .22-caliber revolver was recovered from the car, and the affidavit said a .22-caliber bullet with DNA matching Martinez-Guzman was found on the kitchen floor at the David home.

Officials urge vaccinations amid Northwest measles outbreak

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP)—Public health officials scrambling to contain a measles outbreak in the U.S. Northwest warned people to vaccinate their children Monday and worried that it could take months to contain the highly contagious viral illness due to a lower-than-normal vaccination rate at the epicenter of the crisis.

The outbreak near Portland has sickened 35 people in Oregon and Washington since Jan. 1, with 11 more cases suspected. Most of the patients are children under 10, and one child has been hospitalized.

Health officials say the outbreak is a textbook example of why it's critical to vaccinate against measles, which was eradicated in the U.S. after the vaccine was introduced in 1963. In recent years, however, the viral illness has popped up again from New York to California and sickened hundreds.

Clark County, Washington, has a vaccination rate of 78 percent, well below the level necessary to protect those with compromised immune systems or who can't get vaccinated because of medical issues or because they are too young.

Misinformation is circulating on social media, said Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County public health director.

"What keeps me up at night is eventually having a child die from this completely preventable situation," he said. "It's still out there, even though it's been debunked, that the measles vaccine results in autism. That's nonsense."

Before mass vaccination, 400 to 500 people in the United States died of the measles every year, 50,000 people were hospitalized and 4,000 people developed brain swelling that can cause deafness, Melnick said. One to three cases out of every 1,000 are fatal, he said.

People may have been exposed to the disease at about four dozen locations, including Portland International Airport and a Portland Trail Blazers game, officials said.

They announced Monday that others could have been infected at the popular Oregon Museum of Science & Industry in Portland and a Wal-Mart Supercenter in the bedroom community of Vancouver, Washington.

Thirty-one of the confirmed patients had not been vaccinated against measles. The vaccination status of four others who were infected is unknown.

The vaccine has been part of routine childhood shots for decades, and measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. But measles is still a big problem in other parts of the world, and travelers infected abroad can bring the virus back and spread it, causing periodic outbreaks.

Asia

Duterte sees bombed church, tells army to crush Abu Sayyaf

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte and his top security officials on Monday visited a Catholic cathedral in the southern Philippines where suspected Islamic militants set off bombs that killed 20 people and wounded more than 100.

The first blast sent people, some of them wounded, fleeing out the church's main door. Army troops and police were rushing inside when the second bomb exploded a minute later. The explosions scattered wooden pews inside the main hall, blasted out window glass panels and hurled human remains and debris across a town square fronting the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, witnesses said.

The attack occurred in the Sulu provincial capital on Jolo island, where Abu Sayyaf militants have carried out years of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings and have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Duterte walked slowly into the bombed cathedral, where the wooden pews were still in disarray. At one point he looked at the ceiling, where many panels were ripped off by the blasts.

AP

In this photo provided by Malacanang Palace, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, third from left, talks to military and other officials as he condoles with bombing victims in Jolo, Sulu province in southern Philippines, Monday, Jan. 28, 2019.

Duterte ordered the armed forces to crush the Abu Sayyaf. The group has an estimated 300 to 400 members, mostly in Sulu where it is holding several foreign and Filipino kidnap victims.

Duterte later met with families of the victims at a military camp in Jolo where coffins were laid side by side.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was with the president, blamed the attack on Abu Sayyaf commander Hatib Sawadjaan, who he said has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

"This is an act of terrorism," Lorenzana said. "This is not a religious war."

Sawadjaan is based in the jungles of Patikul town, near Jolo, and has been blamed for ransom kidnappings and beheadings of hostages, including two Canadian men, in recent years.

Police put forces around the country on heightened alert to prevent similar attacks.

The bombings came nearly a week after minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation endorsed a new autonomous region in the southern Philippines in hopes of ending nearly five decades of a separatist rebellion that has left 150,000 people dead. Although most Muslim areas approved the autonomy deal, voters in Sulu province rejected it. The province is home to a rival rebel faction that is opposed to the deal as well as smaller militant cells that are not part of any peace process.

A statement by the Islamic State group posted on social media claimed the attack was carried out by two suicide bombers who wore explosive belts, one detonating at the gate and the other in the parking lot.

Police said at least 20 people died and 111 were wounded. The fatalities were 15 civilians and five troops. Among the wounded, about 90 are civilians.

The United Nations and others denounced the attack. The U.N. Security Council late Monday condemned "the heinous and cowardly" attack and "underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors" of the attacks accountable.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan PM vows to step up China ties but bolster defense

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Monday he will further expand his country's already improving ties with China but said Japan still needs to bolster its defense capability as far as space amid concern about Chinese military activity and uncertainty over North Korea's denuclearization. In a policy speech to Parliament, Abe omitted references to South Korea, which he had routinely mentioned as Japan's most important neighbor, as Tokyo tries to distance itself amid escalating spats over history and alleged incidents between the two defense forces. Abe said Japan-China relations have returned to "normal" since he visited Beijing in October and he now wants to further promote their cooperation in trade and other areas. "Japan-China relations have fully returned to a normal orbit," Abe said. "I will elevate it to a next level by deepening exchanges in every area in all levels." Apparently drawn closer amid shared trade friction with the U.S., the two Asian rivals have improved their ties since a low in 2012 during a dispute over east China Sea islands controlled by Japan but claimed by China.

Toshiba unveils robot to probe melted Fukushima nuclear fuel

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)—Toshiba Corp. unveiled a remote-controlled robot with tongs on Monday that it hopes will be able to probe the inside of one of the three damaged reactors at Japan's tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear plant and grip chunks of highly radioactive melted fuel. The device is designed to slide down an extendable 11-meter (36-foot) long pipe and touch melted fuel inside the Unit 2 reactor's primary containment vessel. The reactor was built by Toshiba and GE. An earlier probe carrying a camera captured images of pieces of melted fuel in the reactor last year, and robotic probes in the two other reactors have detected traces of damaged fuel, but the exact location, contents and other details remain largely unknown. Toshiba's energy systems unit said experiments with the new probe planned in February are key to determining the proper equipment and technologies needed to remove the fuel debris, the most challenging part of the decommissioning process expected to take decades.

Christian acquitted of blasphemy faces final court hurdle

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Christian woman acquitted of blasphemy faces a final legal hurdle in Pakistan's Supreme Court that will guarantee her freedom and allow her to join her daughters, who have fled to Canada where they have been given asylum. The hearing Tuesday is expected to go in favor of Aasia Bibi, who spent eight years on death row before being acquitted Oct. 31, says her lawyer Saiful Malook. Following her acquittal, radical religious parties took to the streets to protest, calling for the judges' deaths and filing an 11th hour appeal to review the Supreme Court acquittal. Malook, who fled the country after receiving death threats, returned to Pakistan for the final review. Bibi's case focused international attention on Pakistan's blasphemy law that carries an automatic death sentence.

US envoy: 'Agreement in principle' on Afghan peace talks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Negotiators for the U.S. and the Taliban insurgents have reached "agreements in principle" on key issues for a peace deal that would end 17 years of war in Afghanistan, the top U.S. envoy said Monday.

The statement by U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad followed six days of talks last week with the Taliban in Qatar, where he urged the Islamic insurgent group to enter into direct negotiations with the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Ghani on Monday assured Afghans that their rights will not be compromised in the name of peace with the Taliban, who have been staging near-daily attacks against Afghan forces, causing scores of casualties every week. Their offensive has not let up despite the severe Afghan winter and the insurgents now hold sway over nearly half of the country.

Khalilzad said in an interview with The New York Times that an agreement in principle was reached with the Taliban on the framework of a peace deal "which still has to be fleshed out" that will see the insurgents commit to guaranteeing that Afghan territory is not used as a "platform for international terrorist groups or individuals."

He said the deal could lead to a full pullout of U.S. troops in return for a cease-fire and Taliban talks with the Afghan government.

In his statement released by the U.S. Embassy, Khalilzad said, "We made progress on vital issues in our discussions and agreed to agreements in principle on a couple of very important issues.

"There is a lot more work to be done before we can say we have succeeded in our efforts but I believe for the first time I can say that we have made significant progress," he said.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said he has been briefed on the talks and described them as encouraging, but he also told reporters that the department has not been directed to prepare for a full withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Speaking before a meeting at the Pentagon with Shanahan, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said any discussion about the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan would be premature. He said Khalilzad had briefed NATO allies on the talks weeks ago.

"We are in Afghanistan to create the conditions for a peaceful negotiated solution," Stoltenberg said. "We will not stay longer than necessary, but we will not leave before we have a situation that enables us to leave or reduce the number of troops without jeopardizing the main goal of our presence and that is to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for international terrorists once again."

He added that he believes it's too soon to speculate on withdrawal because "what we have to do now is to support the efforts to try to find a peaceful solution. We strongly support those efforts."

Ghani sought to assure Afghans that no deals would be made without Kabul's awareness and full participation.

"Our commitment is to provide peace and to prevent any possible disaster," Ghani said in an address to the nation. "There are values that are not disputable, such as national unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Ghani's office said he and Khalilzad met late Sunday in Kabul to discuss details from the talks.

Khalilzad's statement emphasized the inclusion of the Afghan government in the talks.

World

Amid mass arrests, Maduro won't touch rival Guaido

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—More than 700 opponents of President Nicolas Maduro have been arrested during the latest push by Venezuela's opposition to oust the socialist leader.

But there's one anti-government activist security forces notably haven't touched: Juan Guaido, the lawmaker who declared himself interim president in a direct challenge to Maduro's rule.

Maduro's refusal, at least so far, to order Guaido's arrest reflects mistrust in his own security forces as well as the Trump administration's warning that any harm to the man the U.S. recognizes as Venezuela's legitimate leader would be crossing a dangerous red line.

The U.S. administration reiterated that threat Monday in announcing sweeping sanctions against Venezuela's state oil company.

Any actions taken against U.S. diplomats, Guaido or the National Assembly he presides over would be considered a "grave assault" that "will be met with a significant response," U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said.

While he didn't specify what actions the U.S. might take, he reaffirmed that all options for dealing with Venezuela's crisis remain on the table, including use of the military.

AP

Opposition National Assembly leader Juan Guaido, who declared himself interim president, receives communion during Mass at a church in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

"They won't dare touch Guaido," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch. "There's a new dynamic at play. Even while Maduro's government continues to brutally repress the poor and invisible, they won't harm Guaido because he has so much international support."

Maduro's government on several occasions has threatened to arrest the 35-year-old lawmaker, accusing him of violating the constitution and acting as a "puppet" of a U.S. coup attempt.

But every day that Guaido is allowed to move freely around Caracas, holding rallies and building a parallel government complete with foreign ambassadors and a presidential-looking office from which he delivers videotaped messages, he looks statelier and undermines Maduro's authority in the eyes of ordinary Venezuelans, Vivanco said.

On Monday, a consular officer in Miami joined Venezuela's military attache in Washington, Col. Jose Luis Silva, in ditching support for Maduro and recognizing Guaido.

"I'm always at the service of my beloved country. I'll continue to provide consular services in Miami," Scarlet Salazar said in a video announcing her allegiance to Guaido as she stood in front of a Venezuelan flag. "This is our country's moment."

It's not clear what security precautions Guaido is taking to avoid arrest. But he's not exactly been hard to find.

On Friday, he held a news conference in a Caracas plaza announced hours in advance on social media, and on Sunday he attended a church service for victims of anti-government unrest.

In both instances he spoke with a studied coolness, seemingly unconcerned about the enormous risks he was taking by openly defying Maduro. In 2014, his political mentor, Leopoldo Lopez, was arrested during an outdoor rally, and numerous other politicians, activists and even two small-town firefighters who published an online video mocking Maduro as a mule have been arrested over the past year.

Foro Penal, a local rights group, said Monday that in a single week of unrest more than 700 people have been detained. Another 35 have been killed during the unrest, many in poor neighborhoods where the opposition traditionally dominates.

France's Macron raises human rights on visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron said he encouraged respect for human rights when he met Monday with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, a military man seen as a bulwark against Islamic extremists who has led an unprecedented crackdown on dissent.

Speaking after the two met during a state visit that's been light on specifics but loaded with symbolism, Macron said that Egypt's success was important for the world given its size, location and military capabilities, but that free expression was one of the best safeguards against extremism.

"Stability and lasting peace go along with respect for personal freedoms," and a state of law, and that cannot be separated from human rights, Macron said at a joint press conference. He had earlier said he would raise the issue more than in the past, given a lack of progress.

"We have values that are universal, they aren't only French values. We have requirements ourselves, and human rights are among them. And we can, very frankly, affirm them, which is what I decided to do today," he told the news conference.

France, which considers itself the birthplace of human rights, has come under pressure from rights groups and activists to raise such issues with el-Sissi, who led the military overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president in 2013.

Since then, authorities have jailed thousands of people, mainly Islamists but also prominent secular activists, including many of those behind the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Egypt has also been accused of arbitrary detention, disappearances and torture, and has silenced most independent media.

Ahead of the meeting, Macron had said the latest crackdown is widely seen as more severe than any launched under Mubarak, and that people "who do not threaten the regime's stability" have been jailed.

Macron said he had raised the cases of individual pro-democracy activists with el-Sissi during their meeting and mentioned some of the hundreds of websites that have been blocked. He said he also mentioned the precarious state of Egyptian NGOs and civil society, which have come under mounting pressure in recent years. He plans to meet with civil society groups on Tuesday.

El-Sissi said the two leaders had a "positive dialogue," but repeated his argument that Egypt faces much greater challenges than human rights, including providing health care, housing and security for a growing population of 100 million people.

"We are not Europe or the United States," he said, visibly bristling at questions about human rights. "Don't forget that we are speaking about a troubled region."

Egypt has been battling a long-running insurgency in the northern Sinai Peninsula led by an Islamic State affiliate, which has carried out a wave of attacks in recent years mainly targeting security forces and minority Christians.

Strongest tornado in 8 decades hits Cuba; 3 dead, 172 hurt

HAVANA (AP)—Neighborhood brigades and teams of government workers hacked at fallen trees and hauled chunks of concrete out of collapsed homes Monday as the Cuban capital attempted to recover from what officials called the strongest tornado to hit Cuba in nearly 80 years.

Three people were dead and hundreds injured, at least 12 in critical condition, after the tornado touched down with estimated winds of 200 mph (320 kph) in three neighborhoods across eastern Havana.

Members of the Provincial Defense Council of Havana said 90 homes collapsed completely and 30 suffered partial collapse.

A quarter of the city's roughly 2 million people were without power Monday afternoon and more than 200,000 people had lost water service because of a broken main and power cuts that left pumps out of service. Some 100 underground cisterns close to the coastal section of Havana were contaminated by seawater.

Three electric substations were knocked out by the tornado, the strongest to hit Cuba since Dec. 26, 1940, when a Category F4 tornado hit the town of Bejucal, in what is now Mayabeque province, officials said. It also appeared to be the first tornado to hit the capital in at least as many years.

Residents of the three relatively poor boroughs hit by the tornado were bracing for further calamity once the tropical sun started to dry sodden buildings, which can often lead to structures shifting and collapsing.

Julio Menendez, a 33-year-old restaurant worker, said his neighborhood in Havana's 10 de Octubre district looked "like a horror movie."

"From one moment to the next, we heard a noise like an airplane falling out of the sky. The first thing I did was go hug my daughters," who are 9 and 12, he told The Associated Press.

Driver Oster Rodriguez said that amid a fierce storm, what looked like a thick, swirling cloud touched down in the central plaza of the Reparto Modelo neighborhood "like a fireball." He saw a bus blown over, though he said the driver escaped unharmed.

Miguel Angel Hernandez of the Cuban Center for Meteorology said the tornado was a Category F3, with winds between 155 and 199 miles per hour, produced when a cold front hit Cuba's northern coast. Other meteorologist told state media that the tornado may have been even stronger.

Some of the heaviest damage from Sunday night's rare tornado was in the eastern borough of Guanabacoa, where the twister tore the roof off a shelter for dozens of homeless families.

Cubans enduring long waits for government housing often live in such multifamily shelters for years.

Dianabys Bueno, 31, was living in the shelter with her husband and son after they were forced to relocate by the collapse of their home in Central Havana. Much of the housing in Havana is in dire condition due to years without maintenance, and building collapses are routine even in ordinary storms.

Focus

AP
In this June 26, 2010 file photo, Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Director P.J. Hahn rescues a heavily oiled bird from the waters of Barataria Bay, La. As the Trump administration rolls back environmental and safety rules for the U.S. energy sector, government projections show billions of dollars in savings reaped by companies will come at a steep cost: increased premature deaths and illnesses from air pollution, a jump in climate-warming emissions and more derailments of trains carrying explosive fuels.

Trump rollbacks for fossil fuel industries carry steep cost

By MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—As the Trump administration rolls back environmental and safety rules for the energy sector, government projections show billions of dollars in savings reaped by companies will come at a steep cost: more premature deaths and illnesses from air pollution, a jump in climate-warming emissions and more severe derailments of trains carrying explosive fuels.

The Associated Press analyzed 11 major rules targeted for repeal or relaxation under Trump, using the administration's own estimates to tally how its actions would boost businesses and harm society.

The AP identified up to $11.6 billion in potential future savings for companies that extract, burn and transport fossil fuels. Industry windfalls of billions of dollars more could come from a freeze in vehicle efficiency standards that will yield an estimated 79 billion-gallon (300 million-liter) increase in fuel consumption.

On the opposite side of the government's ledger, buried in thousands of pages of analyses, are the "social costs" of rolling back the regulations. Among them:

■ Up to 1,400 additional premature deaths annually due to the pending repeal of a rule to cut coal plant pollution.

■ An increase in greenhouse gas emissions by about 1 billion tons (907 million metric tons) from vehicles produced over the next decade—a figure equivalent to annual emissions of almost 200 million vehicles.

■ Increased risk of water contamination from a drilling technique known as "fracking."

■ Fewer safety checks to prevent offshore oil spills.

For the Trump administration and its supporters, the rule changes examined by AP mark a much-needed pivot away from heavy regulations that threatened to hold back the Republican president's goal of increasing U.S. energy production. But the AP's findings also underscore the administration's willingness to put company profits ahead of safety considerations and pollution effects.

SIDING WITH INDUSTRY

The AP found the administration has sought to bolster the changes by emphasizing, and sometimes exaggerating, economic gains while minimizing negative impacts.

For example, when calculating future damages from greenhouse gas emissions from coal plants, the Trump administration looked only at U.S. effects, instead of globally. That drastically reduced the benefits of emission restrictions and allowed the administration to conclude the Obama-era rule was no longer justified, given costs to the coal industry.

In another instance, the Environmental Protection Agency wants to stop considering secondary benefits of controlling mercury emissions—namely reductions in other pollutants projected to prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths.

Last month, the AP revealed that the administration understated the advantages of installing better brakes on trains carrying crude oil and ethanol. Transportation Department officials acknowledged they miscalculated potential benefits by up to $117 million because they failed to include some projected future derailments.

In explaining its actions, the Trump administration said in some cases that the previous administration understated the price tag on new industry restrictions. In others, it said President Barack Obama's administration had been overly expansive in how it defined benefits to society.

Michael Greenstone, a University of Chicago professor who served as chief economist for Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, said the Trump administration was downplaying the health and environmental impacts of its actions.

"When you start fudging the numbers, it's not that the costs just evaporate into thin air. We will pay," Greenstone said. "They are reducing the costs for industries where pollution is a byproduct."

The rules being targeted were largely crafted under Obama in response to climate change, the disastrous 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, massive releases from coal ash dumps and fuel train explosions.

ADMNISTRATION: NEGLIGIBLE RISKS

Trump's administration has stressed that savings for companies were greater than any increased perils to safety or the environment.

"We fully recognize every significant policy decision has a consequence and that those consequences can differ," acting U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt told the AP. "I think when you look at the track record, holistically, what you see is our deregulatory efforts are still pretty protective."

The AP's tally of savings was derived from government projections required under a 1993 executive order. Five of the rule changes are still pending.

On rules for toxic coal ash, offshore safety and refinery pollution, the administration said companies would save hundreds of millions of dollars with little or no added risk—an assertion former federal officials and environmental groups have disputed.

The potential industry savings were projected largely over the next decade.

Sectors of the coal industry see lifting costly rules as a matter of survival because demand has plummeted as utilities switch to cleaner-burning fuels.

For the oil and gas industry, with hundreds of billions of dollars in annual revenue, the economic impact of the Obama-era rules was comparatively small. But they were vigorously opposed as restrictions on business.

"We need to make sure we're putting together rules that are flexible enough to apply the latest, greatest technologies," said Erik Milito, vice president for the American Petroleum institute. He said the group focused on whether rules make sense, rather than cost savings.

Critics say the impact on public health and the environment will be even worse than projected.

"I don't think it's well understood what the death toll of these policies will be for the American people," said Paul Billings, of the American Lung Association.

OBAMA CLIMATE AGENDA ASSAILED

Two sweeping changes under Trump—the rollback of the Clean Power Plan that threatened to close many coal power plants and a reversal of plans to increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards—were centerpieces of Obama's climate change actions.

Killing the power plan would save companies up to $6.4 billion, the EPA concluded.

The trade-off is almost 61 million tons (55 million metric tons) annually of additional carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. The administration calculated that those emissions carry a maximum of $3.2 billion in "social costs," such as flood damage and higher air conditioning costs.

Since company savings outweighed pollution costs, the administration said scrapping the power plan was justified. That conclusion was possible largely because the EPA limited social costs to effects in the U.S., instead of globally as under Obama.

EPA spokeswoman Enesta Jones said the analysis complied with a 2003 directive under President George W. Bush that said such reviews should focus on costs and benefits to people in the U.S.

Joe Goffman, a former EPA official who helped create the clean power plan and now at Harvard Law School, said the omission of international impacts "doesn't track with reality" given that climate change is a worldwide problem.

The Trump administration also limited pollution cost considerations in its proposal last month on mercury emitted by coal plants.

When the mercury rule was finalized in 2012, the EPA projected up to $90 billion in benefits, including avoidance of up to 11,000 premature deaths from other power plant pollutants.

Now, the EPA says those benefits could not be considered because they are not directly tied to mercury reductions. The only benefits that should be counted, the agency said, were improvements to IQ scores as a result of less mercury exposure, valued at up to $6 million annually.

The National Mining Association had urged the change. Spokesman Conor Bernstein said Obama's EPA misused the concept of secondary pollution benefits to justify its actions.

The rollback's impact is unclear since utilities already have spent an estimated $18 billion on new pollution controls.

FUEL STANDARDS AND DRILLING SAFETY

Some experts outside government take issue with the rationale for relaxing the fuel economy rule.

The Trump administration says reducing standards would save as many as 1,000 lives annually and spare consumers and car companies hundreds of billions of dollars on vehicles with higher gas mileage. To reach that conclusion, officials lowered estimates of how many vehicles people would buy.

But economists including from the nonpartisan National Bureau of Economic Research say that assumption was fundamentally flawed, since looser standards would make cars cheaper and therefore increase demand. The economists said the government used misleading findings to wipe out at least $112 billion in potential societal benefits while falsely claiming its change would save numerous lives.

"Every change they made was made in the direction to make the standards look more expensive and the rollback to look cheaper and better," said Jeff Alson, who worked 40 years at an EPA lab in Michigan.

Several rules reworked under Trump tie directly to worker and public safety.

The administration rescinded requirements for improved fuel train brakes after determining the costs to industry would be higher than previously calculated. It acknowledged more spills from derailments would likely occur.

After AP's story about the agency's $117 million benefits understatement, spokesman Bobby Fraser said the decision to rescind the Obama rule would stand because the costs were still greater.

Two safety rules for offshore oil and gas drilling were adopted following the Deepwater Horizon accident, which killed 11 people and spilled 134 million gallons (507 million liters) of oil.

The Interior Department now says less rigid inspection and equipment requirements would save drilling companies hundreds of millions of dollars with "negligible" safety and environmental risks.

Lynn Scarlett, acting Interior Secretary under George W. Bush, said the changes ignore a government commission's findings on the Gulf spill.

"You're removing a tool that was developed intentionally to help reduce the risks," Scarlett said. "The failure to have those protections raises the risk, such that actions can result in accidents like Deepwater Horizon."

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening: These plants offer 24-karat gold to your cool season garden

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Sometimes I am amazed at the sheer beauty of the cool season garden. The temperatures have pushed us a little closer to the fireplace the past few days but outside it is the 'wonderful world of color'. Pansies, violas, dianthus, heuchera are just a few of the plants giving us a riotous show of color right now. My eyes however immediately go to the gold.

Mixed containers or landscape entrances that feature the pockets of gold or chartreuse, if you will, are the ones that seem to have everyone mesmerized. In Columbus Ga., right now, it is chains of gold from Goldilocks lysimachia, the Louisiana Super Plant award-winning Lemon Ball sedum, and the Golden Lemon thyme that are so riveting.

Golden Lemon thyme is both beautiful and edible. TNS

Goldilocks lysimachia or Creeping Jenny is magical as during the summer it exhibits true lime green in the sun. You just can get enough as it hangs downward from baskets, window boxes and as spiller-plants in mixed containers. In the winter, however, once it is exposed to the South's frosty nights it really does look like it is a chain that has been carved of gold. Plant it with violet colored pansies and the look becomes like nature's sapphires on a gold chain.

Goldilocks is a perennial in zones 3-10 really meaning that no matter where you live in the United States you have a season where it will be stunning. How stunning you might wonder, well, it won the 'Knock Your Socks Off' designation multiple times in the University of Georgia Plant Trials. It only gets a couple of inches tall but has a groundcover spreading ability.

Cool Wave Purple Improved pansy and Cool Wave Sunshine 'N Wine sizzle in this container with Lemon Ball sedum and Dash dianthus.

Golden Lemon Thyme is a little bit of a mystery plant. One has to wonder, why doesn't everyone grow this plant. It fills the role as a spiller plant as well though it is more of a gently tumbling off the edge or rim of the container. It needs a sunny locale to get its golden color and, it's cold hardy from zones 4-10 and reaches about 6-inches tall with a spread of 18-inches.

As you are planting it, you will notice the culinary fragrance or aroma of the leaves that quickly tell you this will also be one for the kitchen. Golden Lemon thyme is heavenly in rock gardens or along stone paths. Keep your eyes open for the variety Archer's Gold.

Lemon Ball Sedum won the Mississippi Medallion Award in 2018 and Louisiana Super Plant Award in 2019. It is cold hardy from zones 7-10 meaning much of the South will find it a terrific perennial for mixed containers, rock gardens or along paths. It exudes a lush lime green that will turn gold in the winter. It also loads up with uncountable yellow flowers. Its foliage and soft needle-like texture, however, will have your eyes fixated. You can expect it to reach about 6-inches tall with a potential spread of three feet over the years.

Goldilocks lysimachia, Golden Lemon thyme, and Lemon Ball sedum are the ultimate finishing touches to the cool season's dazzling containers, baskets, or landscape beds, make sure you include them.

Expert tips on how to make orchids bloom and thrive

TNS
Here's a few tips for those interested in growing orchids.

By DOREEN CHRISTENSEN
SUN SENTINEL

Orchids can intimidate budding and experienced gardeners alike.

Joan Connors, a retired greenhouse manager of the American Orchid Society, has a few tips to help keep plants healthy, happy and blooming.

"I love growing orchids, because there is always a new flower to surprise me," says Connors, of Deerfield Beach. "They give me joy every day."

Connors, who retired in 2011 when the AOS headquarters moved to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, also was past president and is a trustee of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. She helps organize the club's annual orchid show and sale at the War Memorial Auditorium, which will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 25-27.

Q: What is the easiest orchid to grow?

A: Phalaenopsis. It requires little maintenance. Just water it once a week and it should flower. Phals will be in full bloom now through March, and hybridized versions of the plants bloom a few times a year. Also, ask the grower you purchase plants from for culture instructions and visit AOS.org for more tips on commonly grown orchids.

Q: What is the biggest mistake most gardeners make with orchids?

A: Over-watering will kill a plant faster than anything else, because the roots rot. Generally, water plants once a week and keep them in indirect light, and they should do well.

Q: Is fertilizer necessary?

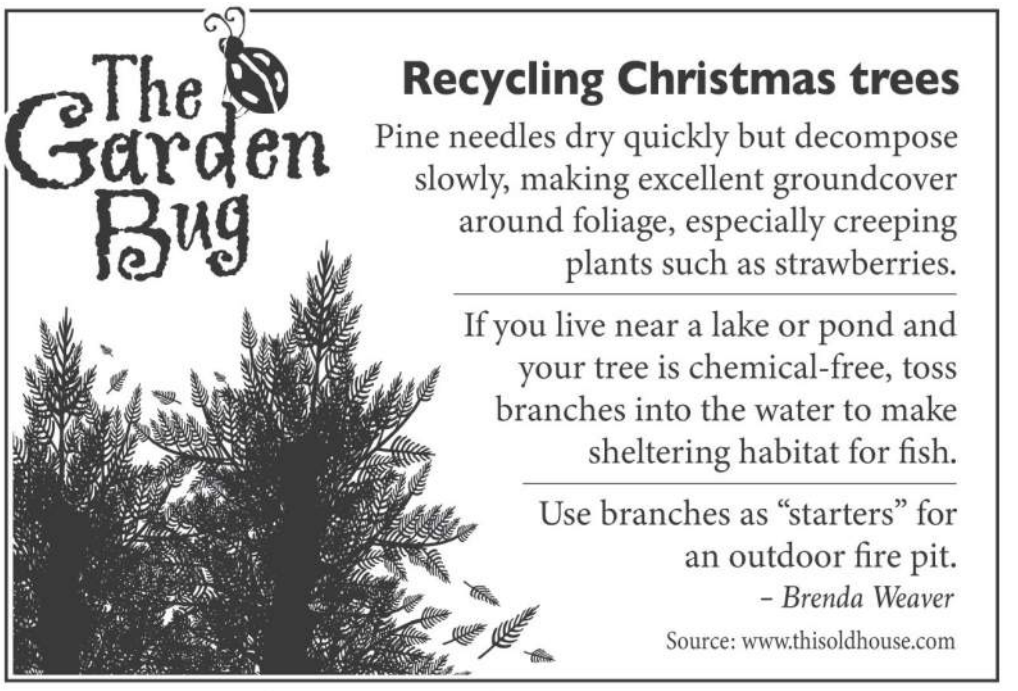
A: Orchids get hungry, and fertilizer is their food. They expend a lot of energy producing those beautiful blooms. Try generic Miracle-Gro plant food. You must be very careful to follow package instructions when fertilizing so you don't burn the leaves, roots and blooms. There is one rule: Water with fertilizer, weekly and weakly.

Q: Where is the best place to keep orchids?

A: Most orchids, especially phals, do not appreciate direct sun, so keep them in indirect light on a patio or strapped to a tree with a dense canopy or dappled light.

Q: What are the benefits of joining a local orchid society?

A: Clubs offer a wealth of information, and experts can help you learn more about specific species and their culture. Plus, you meet people that have the same success and failures that you have and you can learn from each other.


The Garden Bug
Recycling Christmas trees
Pine needles dry quickly but decompose slowly, making excellent groundcover around foliage, especially creeping plants such as strawberries.
If you live near a lake or pond and your tree is chemical-free, toss branches into the water to make sheltering habitat for fish.
Use branches as "starters" for an outdoor fire pit.
– Brenda Weaver
Source: www.thisoldhouse.com

© 2019 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Life & Style

Before it hits Netflix, Sundance previews 'Velvet Buzzsaw'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Dan Gilroy's satirical contemporary art world thriller "Velvet Buzzsaw" will be available to Netflix subscribers worldwide this Friday, but he and his team gave audiences at the Sundance Film Festival a sneak peek at the film Sunday night where the most-common word used to praise it was "weird."

"Dan is crazy," Rene Russo, who is married to Gilroy, said in Park City, Utah. "He's got this crazy imagination and he's just kind of outside the box."

The film reunites Gilroy with Jake Gyllenhaal, who starred in his directorial debut "Nightcrawler." That dark thriller about an ambulance chasing journalist went on to become a box office hit and, so, when Gilroy landed on the idea for "Velvet Buzzsaw," which would star Gyllenhaal as a snobby critic and Russo as a savvy gallery owner and art dealer, there were a lot of film studios who wanted to put their name behind it. Netflix was one of them.

AP
Cast member Rene Russo attends the premiere of "Velvet Buzzsaw" at The Egyptian Theatre on Monday, Jan. 28, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Gilroy was unsure at first about Netflix, though, so he started reading a little more about the company. He came across a quote where someone said that Netflix was going to destroy the theatrical experience, but following it were 50 comments about how that person must live in New York or Los Angeles or Chicago where, "You can see everything."

"I suddenly thought, wow, democratization," Gilroy said. "It is an elitist point of view to think that everybody in the world has access to the things that New York, LA and Chicago have. That really was the deciding factor. If you really want to reach the widest possible audience, here's this technology that can do this... And what is the theatrical experience? 500 people in a theater? 100? Does 50 count? Does four people on a Friday night on my 50-inch widescreen count? It does to me."

Producer Jennifer Fox, who has been behind films like "Michael Clayton," said Netflix made it, "At a level that it should have been made at. They got it. And it's really out there."

Out there is right, for the ensemble film that co-stars John Malkovich, Toni Collette, Daveed Diggs, Billy Magnussen and relative newcomer Zawe Ashton in which the discovery of a dead artist's works ends up taking its own body count. But that's Gilroy's operating mode for his own films which aren't bound by traditional genre or constraints. It's why "Velvet Buzzsaw" is about everything—the pretentiousness of the contemporary art world, the fluidity of criticism and even sexuality, and, you know, a demon art spirit out for blood.

"If I follow one rule in any form of entertainment it is, 'Do Not Bore.' You cannot bore," Gilroy said. "My (playwright) father pounded that into my head."

Gilroy wrote the critic character Morf, who is as fluid in his sexuality as he is in his art opinions, specifically for Gyllenhaal who he said is, "One of the most fearless actors alive right now."

"He's always pushing himself with the craziest ideas that often end up in the movie," Gilroy said. "I like working with people who want to take a sledgehammer to all this and Jake is that person"

The feeling is mutual for Gyllenhaal who said their connection is, "Sort of inexplicable."

"But I'm not asking any questions about it," Gyllenhaal said. "I just show up when he asks."

After the "Velvet Buzzsaw" experience, Gilroy himself is a Netflix believer.

"I couldn't speak highly enough about Netflix. The traditional studios in some way have created Netflix. The traditional studios have gone from making a broad range of films to doing branded IP and franchises and it has left a void for original, range of films to get made," Gilroy said. "And Netflix is making them en masse and it's a very exciting time. I think history is being written right now."

Ahead of Oscars, 'Black Panther' to return to theaters again

NEW YORK (AP)—Fresh off of its win at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, "Black Panther" is heading back into theaters.

Disney announced Monday that Ryan Coogler's Oscar nominee will play for free Feb. 1-7 at 250 participating AMC theaters to celebrate Black History Month. Disney also said it will give a $1.5 million grant to support the United Negro College Fund.

This is the second time "Black Panther" has been re-released since it opened in February 2018. For a day in November, it played for free in art house theaters nationwide.

"Black Panther" on Sunday night won best ensemble at the SAG Awards, the guild's top prize. The film, which grossed more than $700 million at the domestic box office, is nominated for seven Oscars including best picture.

Sundance: An ode to Springsteen in 'Blinded by the Light'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—"Bend It Like Beckham" director Gurinder Chadha knows a little bit about being a Bruce Springsteen fan, having seen The Boss at Wembley Stadium in 1984 where she proudly stood atop her chair and sang her heart out to his songs. So when she came across Guardian journalist Sarfraz Manzoor's memoir about being a British Muslim boy who finds inspiration, comfort and understanding of his own circumstances in Springsteen's lyrics, she knew it would be perfect for a film.

Ten years later, the 1987-set "Blinded by the Light," premiered at the Sundance Film Festival Sunday night to a warm response for the feel-good film that's packed to the brim with 17 Springsteen anthems. As the lights went down, the crowd in the Eccles Theater whispered rumors of a possible Springsteen appearance in Park City. He wasn't there and was never supposed to be, but as Chadha explained, he "didn't want to take away from the movie."

Springsteen gave his blessing to Chadha and Manzoor to do the film back in 2010. They had both gone to the red carpet for the premiere of the rockumentary "The Promise: The Making of Darkness on the Edge of Town" hoping to maybe get a picture with him. Springsteen recognized Manzoor and came over to tell him that he'd read his book.

AP
In this Nov. 5, 2018 file photo, Bruce Springsteen performs at the 12th annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit concert in New York.

"He nearly had a heart attack and landed on the floor," Chadha said. "And I said, 'Hey Bruce, my name is Gurinder and I'm a filmmaker and I really want to make a film of this book, will you support us? And he said, 'Sounds good! Talk to Jon.'"

With The Boss' blessing—and the support of his managers Jon Landau and Barbara Carr—they were suddenly developing the script. It turned in to a seven-year project.

"Everything we wrote we wanted to make sure Bruce would approve given we were using his life's work, his music. We had a responsibility to not treat that music lightly," she explained of the lengthy process.

It's the first time Chadha has made a film about the British-Asian community since 2002, when with her breakout hit "Bend It Like Beckham" was released. She felt the time was right to explore that theme again.

"It's a film that serves to bring people together with music and words. For me this is very timely given the state of your nation (the U.S.), my nation Britain in terms of divisiveness and people calling for separation and xenophobia basically. This film is a hopeful statement," she said. "Words can have meaning despite your cultural background. A human soul can transcend all kinds of human boundaries."

As the dust settles the morning after the premiere, the film is on track to secure a healthy sale too. New Line is in talks to acquire world rights, minus a few territories, for "Blinded by the Light" for a cool $15 million—which would make it the biggest sale of the 2019 festival yet. No release date has been set.

Judge: Human trafficking law OK against Harvey Weinstein

AP
Harvey Weinstein, left, leaves court with attorney Ron Sullivan, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—A second judge ruled Monday that a human trafficking law can be used in a civil lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer in Manhattan made the finding as he let former Weinstein consultant Alexandra Canosa's lawsuit proceed against Weinstein and two of his companies.

In her 2017 lawsuit, Canosa alleged that Weinstein on multiple occasions from 2010 to 2017 raped, sexually abused, intimidated and harassed her during what he maintained were business meetings in New York, Los Angeles, Malaysia and Budapest.

Canosa, a producer on Netflix's "Marco Polo," sought unspecified damages, saying Weinstein threatened she'd lose her job and he'd blackball her in the entertainment industry if she rejected sexual advances.

Engelmayer said Carnosa had "plausibly alleged" that Weinstein knowingly enticed or recruited her knowing he would use force or fraud to cause her to engage in a commercial sex act. Her lawsuit alleged that she expected and received career advances after coerced sexual activity.

The judge rejected arguments by Weinstein's companies that the sex trafficking law was inappropriate because the lawsuit's allegations were not the kind that the law was passed to address.

He wrote that arguments that the law was designed to "reach only caricatures of child slavery, and to exclude corporate-supported conduct, is wholly unpersuasive."

Engelmayer said such arguments were a "self-serving distinction."

"That the TWC Companies, as alleged, enticed Canosa to meet with Weinstein through the promise of production deals rather than the promise of crack, does not remove their conduct from the ambit of the statute," he said. "Nor does the fact that, as alleged, the companies enabled Weinstein to force sexual acts on Canosa in expensive hotels rather than brothels."

Weinstein's lawyer Elior Shiloh said the judge erred in letting the human trafficking claim proceed and defense lawyers believe they will defeat the claim as the case proceeds.

Shiloh also said Canosa's email communications "completely undermine the allegations."

He said Canosa and her lawyers have asked that the email communications be kept under seal.

"They don't want the truth to come out because it'll ruin the whole case," Shiloh said.

In his ruling, Engelmayer said he agreed with the reasoning of Judge Robert W. Sweet, who ruled last year in another civil lawsuit against Weinstein that the sex trafficking law was appropriately used.

"He is correct," Engelmayer said of Sweet.

Scores of women have accused the movie mogul of sexual misconduct. He has denied non-consensual sex allegations.

In Monday's ruling, Engelmayer also dismissed as defendants Weinstein's brother and the directors of the Weinstein companies.

El Chapo tells judge he won't testify at US trial

In this 2014 photo provided by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Victor Vazquez descends into an underground tunnel from one of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmam's homes near Culiacan, Mexico after Guzman and his mistress, Lucero Guadalupe Sanchez Lopez, had already escaped though it as authorities closed in. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman told a judge Monday that he won't take the witness stand in his own defense at his U.S. drug-trafficking trial, ending speculation that he might go for broke and build on a notorious reputation already cemented by the sprawling government case against him.

"Your honor, me and my attorneys have spoken about this . and I won't testify," Guzman said through a Spanish interpreter in a rare instance of him standing up and speaking in court.

The decision, along with the defense's plan to call only two brief witnesses, could bring the trial to a sooner-than-expected conclusion. Closing arguments were set to begin Wednesday with deliberations starting as soon as Friday afternoon.

Guzman's lawyers say he's being framed by a cadre of cooperators who were far more culpable in the Sinaloa cartel's wildly lucrative cocaine-smuggling enterprise.

As the government was finally concluding a case that began in mid-November, an actor who played Guzman on a popular Netflix series caused a minor stir Monday by showing up in the courtroom as a spectator. The defendant cracked a smile and waved when "Narcos: Mexico" cast member Alejandro Edda was pointed out to him, Edda told reporters.

"It was a very surreal moment, I have to be honest," the actor said.

Surreal was an apt description for many aspects of the government's case, including testimony from several cooperators that made Guzman's delight at seeing Edda seem understandable. Some of the more than 50 government witnesses said Guzman had spoken often of his dream of being portrayed on film or being the subject of an autobiography about his rise to power as the Sinaloa cartel boss.

The highlights of the government case offered plenty of potential material, starting early in the trial with testimony by a former Sinaloa cartel lieutenant describing how a car carrying Guzman into Mexico City shortly after he escaped prison in 2001 got a police escort by highway officers. A suspected informant claimed he had survived several attempts on his life ordered by Guzman, including a knife attack at a jail right after he heard a brass band ominously playing a favorite "corrido" folk song of Guzman's—"Un Puno De Tierra"—over and over.

Ex-Fugees member Pras fights US forfeiture complaint

WASHINGTON (AP)—A rapper and founding member of the 1990s hip-hop group The Fugees is fighting the U.S. government over a multimillion-dollar forfeiture complaint.

Prakazrel "Pras" Michel faces allegations in a civil forfeiture complaint that he aided a scheme to try to get the Justice Department to drop an investigation into embezzlement from a Malaysian investment fund.

The complaint says Michel was engaged by the brother of Jho Low, a fugitive Malaysian financer charged by the Justice Department last year with embezzling money from the fund to pay for a luxurious lifestyle, to join the illicit lobbying effort. It says Michel helped by opening bank accounts under false pretenses to finance the scheme. Justice Department officials are trying to recover roughly $38 million from Michel that they say can be connected to that effort.

A former Justice Department official, George Higginbotham, pleaded guilty in November for his role in that lobbying, marking the first public acknowledgement of a secret attempt to pressure American officials to drop their probe of the fund known as 1MDB. The embezzlement from the fund became a political scandal in Malaysia, with money spent on diamond jewelry, high-end artwork, luxury art and to finance "The Wolf of Wall Street" and other Hollywood productions.

Barry Pollack, a lawyer for Michel, asked Monday to dismiss the complaint. He said the Justice Department failed to present sufficient allegations of bank fraud, conspiracy and false statements, or that the funds in the accounts the government wants to seize were proceeds of fraud.

Pollack requested a hearing on his arguments.

Michel has denied wrongdoing. He told The Washington Post in a statement last month that his name was being "dragged through the mud" and said, "I have never conspired to commit any crime, nor defraud any organization, in this case or otherwise."

Prosecutors say Higginbotham, who worked on the congressional affairs staff in the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs, helped open bank accounts and created false loan documents for shell companies as part of the scheme.

Michael Jackson family condemns new documentary on accusers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's family members said Monday that they are "furious" that two men who accuse him of sexually abusing them as boys have received renewed attention because of a new documentary about them.

The family released a statement denouncing "Leaving Neverland," a documentary film featuring Jackson accusers Wade Robson and James Safechuck that premiered last week at the Sundance Film Festival and is set to air in the spring on HBO and the U.K.'s Channel 4.

"Michael always turned the other cheek, and we have always turned the other cheek when people have gone after members of our family—that is the Jackson way," the statement said. "But we can't just stand by while this public lynching goes on.... Michael is not here to defend himself, otherwise these allegations would not have been made."

The family points out that Jackson was subjected to a thorough investigation that included a surprise raid of his home, the Neverland Ranch, but was still acquitted at his criminal trial in 2005, in a case involving another young man.

Robson testified at that trial, saying he had slept in Jackson's room many times, but that Jackson had never molested him. Safechuck made similar statements to investigators as a boy. Jackson died in 2009.

AP

In this Jan. 24, 2019, file photo Wade Robson, from left, director Dan Reed and James Safechuck pose for a portrait to promote the film "Leaving Neverland" at the Salesforce Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Both men filed lawsuits in 2013 saying stress and trauma had forced them to face the truth and admit they were sexually abused. The suits have been thrown out on technical grounds but are under appeal.

The Jackson statement calls the men "perjurers" because of this reversal, saying the family is "furious" that media outlets without evidence have chosen "to believe the word of two admitted liars over the word of hundreds of families and friends around the world who spent time with Michael."

"Leaving Neverland" director Dan Reed said in a statement Monday that the film focuses only on the two men and their families because he felt "no need to include the opinions of people with no direct knowledge of what happened" to them.

"Anyone who sees the film will know it is solely about hearing the stories of two specific individuals and their families in their own words, and that is a focus we are very proud of," Reed said.

Reed has said previously he has no doubts about the validity of the men's claims.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, which Robson and Safechuck have done on multiple occasions.

The family insists that truth and evidence are on their side.

"We are proud of what Michael Jackson stands for," the statement said.

Roseanne Barr says show canceled over her support for Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Comedian and divisive former television star Roseanne Barr says her sitcom was canceled last year because of backlash against her support for Israel.

Barr spoke Monday at an event in Tel Aviv and said she had been "BDS-ed" by television network ABC. BDS refers to a Palestinian-led movement calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel.

ABC canceled its reboot of "Roseanne" last May after Barr tweeted racist remarks about former Obama administration adviser Valerie Jarrett.

Barr was in Israel for a four-day visit organized by celebrity Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. She railed against Hollywood liberals, defended her support for President Donald Trump, and admitted to trolling her critics online with various fake accounts.

Barr said she has "witnessed horrific anti-Semitism and I'm just here to defend the Jewish people."

Henson and Badu say comments on R. Kelly misrepresented

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taraji P. Henson and Erykah Badu want to clear the air.

The pair, who star together in the upcoming comedy "What Men Want," say their comments regarding R. Kelly have been taken totally out of context.

The "Empire" actress recently posted an Instagram story where she looked up the hashtag #MuteRKelly and later looked at one for #MuteHarveyWeinstein, noting there were much more for Kelly, and then typed "Hmmmm."

People condemned her, saying she was defending R. Kelly, who faces allegations of sexual misconduct involving women and underage girls. Others said she shouldn't have used the word "mute" because Weinstein is not a musician and is already facing criminal charges of sexual assault in New York.

AP

This combination photo shows Erykah Badu performing at a tribute to Prince at the BET Awards in Los Angeles on June 26, 2016, left, and Taraji P. Henson posing for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Nov. 3, 2018.

The #MuteRKelly hashtag has trended on social media after the Lifetime documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly" began airing in January. The show drew fresh attention to the sex abuse allegations against Kelly, which have dogged him most of his career. Kelly, who was acquitted of child pornography charges in 2008, has denied allegations of abuse.

"I actually was just making an observation. I never tried to say anything. I was just making an observation, and people know what side I'm on. Why would I launch a foundation for mental health in an African-American community for people to go somewhere to talk to somebody about traumatic experiences and then side with the predator?" Henson asked during an interview with The Associated Press.

"Does that make sense? So that backlash pretty much came from people that want to see me fail anyway, because there's no way if you follow my career, you got that confused."

When asked if she was surprised at the backlash, Henson replied: "Sort of, kind of, you know. Humans are fickle," she said. "Anything you say or do can be taken totally out of context."

Similarly, singer-turned-actress Badu faced criticism for her comments made during a concert in Chicago in which she asked the audience to pray for Kelly, who's from the Windy City. Critics took that to mean she was defending Kelly, but Badu blamed social media for the backlash.

Man seeking commitment finds casual sex instead

DEAR ABBY: What are your thoughts about having a sex-only arrangement with an ex? Most of the women I've dated have contacted me after the relationship was over hoping to have "no-strings-attached" sex on a regular basis. I have always refused because I figured it would make it more difficult to move on and to meet someone new.

That said, I'm an attractive guy in my early 30s, and I'd hate to continue to waste my prime sexual years. I'd love to be married and have a family, but I'm struggling to find a woman who is honest, loyal, a good communicator and independent. That leaves me with either having no sex while hoping for a miracle, or a lot of sex with women I don't really like.

SEARCHING IN OREGON

DEAR SEARCHING: Dating may look like fun, but at a certain point it becomes serious business. You have reached an age at which you know what you are looking for. However, you will never find it as long as you tie yourself to women who don't fit the bill. This does not mean you must live like a monk, only that you direct your sexual (and emotional) energies forward rather than backward if your goal is marriage and a family.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and unlike most girls I know, I prefer to be natural. I don't shave or wax my body hair. My friends accept this as my business. But my stepsisters, whom I share a room with every other weekend, say I look gross and proudly display their shave and wax jobs. They say their boyfriends and nearly all guys prefer it.

I have a boyfriend, but we aren't to that point. However, someday that day will come. Does it really matter to guys if a girl shaves and waxes? Also, how do I deal with my stepsisters?

NATURAL IN THE WEST

DEAR NATURAL: Deal with your stepsisters by continuing to ignore their advice and following your own path. The idea that women should be hairless from the eyelids down is one that Madison Avenue and the porn industry have foisted on the public. I can't predict how "guys" will react to you in your natural state, but I can say this: A MAN who cares about you will be only too glad to accept the entire package—fur and all.

DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend who visits me often. Recently I discovered that in addition to eating snacks I put out, he has been sneaking food and things like canned beverages from my home when I'm not looking.

He has money. In fact, he is a very generous person. I can't get over his behavior. Is it right that this bothers me, and if so, what should I say?

MISSING MY FOOD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MISSING: It should bother you, because as petty as it is, it's still theft. What you should say is, "Why are you taking food from my home without asking me first?" It's a legitimate question. If he denies it, your buddy may be a bit of a kleptomaniac.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

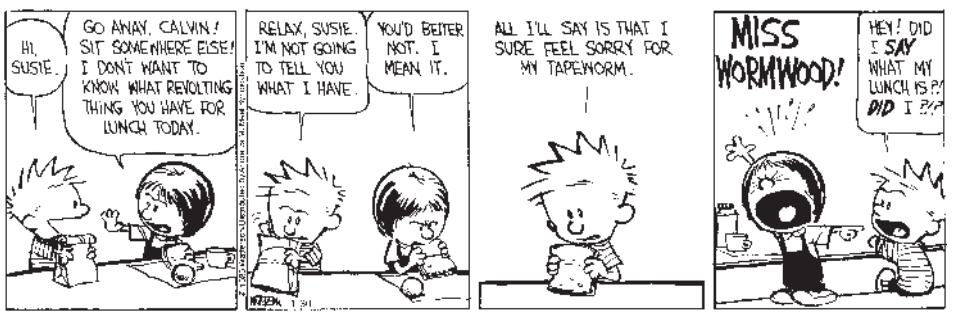
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

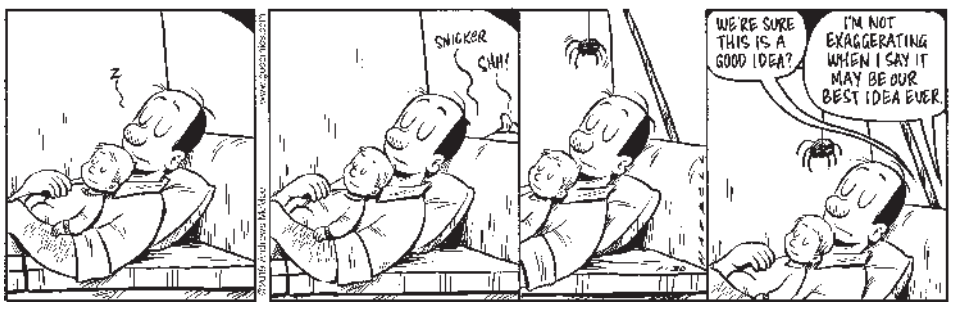

HI, SUSIE.
GO AWAY, CALVIN! SIT SOMEWHERE ELSE! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT REVOLTING THING YOU HAVE FOR LUNCH TODAY.
RELAX, SUSIE. I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE.
YOU'D BETTER NOT. I MEAN IT.
ALL I'LL SAY IS THAT I SURE FEEL SORRY FOR MY TAPEWORM.
MISS WORMWOOD!
HEY! DID I SAY WHAT MY LUNCH IS?! DID I ?!?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OH NO, WE'VE GOT A VIRUS.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ON ANY MALICIOUS WEBSITES, HAVE YOU?
UH, I MAY HAVE CLICKED ON "CHEAP_BEER_FROM_RUSSIAN_SPIES.COM."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Choose
4 Scale amts.
7 Diving duck
8 Diner workers
10 Dijon darling
11 Removes, as a brooch
13 Winter Olympics event
16 "— Clear Day"
17 Bolivian city
18 "Ulalume" writer
19 Favorites
20 Roman emperor
21 Drivers with handles
23 Battery part
25 Persia, today
26 "What's — for me?"
27 Lincoln or Ford
28 Accord maker
30 Baseball execs
33 2016 Best Picture nominee
36 Net defender in hockey
37 Separated
38 Island near Java
39 Apple variety
40 Tax form ID
41 Reply (Abbr.)

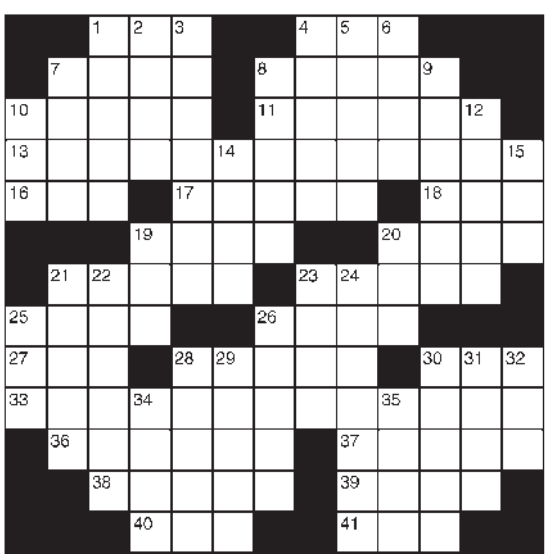
DOWN

1 Alpha's opposite
2 Lima's land
3 Performer with a baton
4 Candy-maker Willy
5 November birthstone
6 Revue segment
7 Tibia's place
8 Points
9 Took potshots
10 Corp. money manager
12 Napper's racket
14 Comestibles
15 Earth (Pref.)
19 Calligrapher's instrument
20 Word of denial
21 007 portrayer Daniel
22 Legendary French actress
23 "The King —"
24 Falls on the U.S./Canadian border
25 German pronoun
26 Draw a conclusion
28 Big wheels at sea
29 Leek's kin
30 Metric measures
31 Simple
32 Retired jet
34 Lectern locale
35 "Once — a time ..."

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	L	A	S		W	A	R		B	A	E	Z
M	A	C	H		I	D	A		E	L	L	A
P	I	E	R		D	O	G	G	Y	B	A	G
S	C	R	I	P	T	S		R	O	A	N	S
			M	E	H		G	I	N			
A	D	E	P	T		S	A	N	D	B	A	C
R	E	V			W	A	G			I	M	C
F	L	E	A	B	A	G		S	N	O	O	P
			R	R	S		T	I	A			
H	A	I	T	I		S	O	R	B	E	T	S
I	N	T	H	E	B	A	G		O	P	A	L
C	T	T	U		A	L	A		B	E	T	A
D	I	C	R		Y	E	S		S	E	E	M

Yesterday's answer 1-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wilmer Valderrama, 39; Christian Bale, 45; Phil Collins, 68; Charles S. Dutton, 68.

Happy Birthday: Stand up for your beliefs, and make a difference in your community, workplace or circle of friends. How you approach life and the suggestions and solutions you make will draw positive attention to you and what you have to offer. Turn this into a progressive year filled with hopes, dreams and wishes. Trust your judgment and forge ahead. Your numbers are 6, 10, 23, 29, 31, 36, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Interacting with people who have something to offer will lead to greater opportunities. Sign up for a course or participate in an activity that interests you. Do a background check before you trust someone with your money or your personal information. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Dedicate more time to gathering information and facts before you decide to get into a debate with someone who can influence your position or advancement. Knowledge will determine how well you do. Don't underestimate the competition. Handle your affairs personally. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll learn quickly. A partnership looks promising, but before you take a leap of faith, make sure you are dealing with someone reputable. Ask around and rely on reviews to help you make a sound decision. Meetings and travel are favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't make a change for the wrong reason. If someone pushes or pressures you, back away and do your own thing. Be confident in your ability to come up with your own means and methods to accomplish what's best for you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* What are you waiting for? If change is needed, make it happen. Own your responsibilities, and make moves based on your needs. Socialize and network and you will make connections that will lead to relationships that will help you personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't let personal situations consume you. Take a step back and talk to someone you admire and respect. Getting a unique perspective on a situation you face will give you the insight you need to make a decision. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Get away from your home turf and explore new territory. What you discover will inspire you to make changes to the way you live or handle people who are too demanding. Your happiness depends on what you do with this new outlook. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn all you can and explore your options. Don't let someone make decisions for you. Keeping the peace will not buy you the freedom you want. Speak up and make choices that will help you reach your goals. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll be distracted easily. Refuse to let someone put ideas in your head that aren't valid or use emotional tactics to get you to do something you shouldn't. Stick to tried-and-true friends who offer stability. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Demands will be made, but that doesn't mean you have to agree. Weigh the pros and cons and do what's in your best interest. If someone wants to take a risk, walk away and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look for an opportunity to use your skills to bring in more cash. Take action and start something that will help you build a strong base for something you want to pursue. Physical fitness, emotional wellness and romance are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Proceed with caution. Someone will feed you false information or use persuasive tactics to get you involved in something that isn't going to make you look good. Protect against a broken heart, ill health and emotional manipulation. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are industrious, original and outgoing. You are clever and helpful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		9	2	4			
			7			2		
1		2					9	
7	6				3			9
	5						8	
2	1	3						6
8	3		2				5	
4				8	6	9		
			5	1				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	4	9	3	6	2	5	8	7
5	7	8	9	4	1	2	6	3
2	6	3	8	7	5	1	4	9
9	1	4	6	8	3	7	5	2
8	3	2	7	5	9	4	1	6
7	5	6	1	2	4	3	9	8
4	8	5	2	9	7	6	3	1
3	9	7	4	1	6	8	2	5
6	2	1	5	3	8	9	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HAPPINESS IS A MINDSET **Solution: 6 letters**

W	O	R	K	Y	O	J	G	N	I	N	R	A	E	L
A	C	W	O	R	G	G	N	I	K	N	I	H	T	I
L	U	F	E	T	A	R	G	H	P	O	M	E	A	V
K	G	F	L	S	M	A	E	R	D	O	C	V	E	E
S	N	O	I	T	C	A	A	N	D	A	Y	O	R	S
S	I	C	S	G	N	I	L	E	E	F	E	L	C	N
I	H	U	T	I	S	E	E	P	M	I	N	D	A	O
L	G	S	E	E	C	R	M	O	O	D	R	M	F	I
B	U	L	N	E	F	S	S	T	E	P	U	L	L	T
A	A	A	R	O	T	C	A	F	N	H	O	O	E	C
L	L	O	S	N	O	I	T	O	M	E	J	R	S	E
A	G	G	E	S	T	H	G	U	O	H	T	T	R	N
N	L	V	S	M	I	L	E	R	U	T	A	N	U	N
C	E	F	A	S	E	V	L	E	S	R	U	O	O	O
E	E	E	S	N	E	S	R	E	E	R	A	C	Y	C

© 2019 Tribune Media Services, Inc. www.wonderword.com 1/30

Actions, Balance, Bliss, Careers, Connections, Contentment, Control, Create, Dreams, Emotions, Energy, Events, Factor, Feeling, Focus, Freedom, Glee, Goals, Grateful, Grow, Human, Journey, Joy, Laughing, Learning, Listen, Lives, Love, Mind, Mood, Nature, Ourselves, Peace, Pets, Praise, Safe, Sense, Smile, Thinking, Thoughts, Walk, Work, Yourself

Yesterday's Answer: Dimensions

Treasuries 13 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

B & L CORPORATION

(1) Diesel Engine Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
in Overhauling Diesel Engine
Contact Person: Leila Bais
Contact Number : 235-2567

Philpan International Inc.
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Need **(1) Sales Representative**
At least 3 years experience
in sales and marketing
Knowledgeable
in Peach Tree Invoicing
Contact Number 783-0367

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-008
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 4, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

"MEDICAL CODING TRAINING
BUSINESS OFFICE
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

For positive results.
PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
Please contact us at 235-6397

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Fulltime Office Clerk:

Essential competencies
1. Communications
2. Organizational skills
3. Computers: Data base management

Qualifications
- Must be 18 years old and above.
- High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in customer service.
- Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: February 8, 2019.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
NMI BON
Email: nmibon@gmail.com

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: You are out of your mind

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS
- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Suh reshapes legacy in Super Bowl shot with Rams

AP
Los Angeles Rams' Ndamukong Suh stretches during practice at the team's NFL football training facility Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

ATLANTA—Ndamukong Suh walked slowly onto the stage, a backpack on his massive back and a hulking jug of five-stage filtered water in his right hand, the black and red super canteen inscribed in gold lettering with his last name.

Once known as the NFL's biggest villain, the former Detroit Lions defensive tackle looked around at Super Bowl LIII Opening Night on Monday, taking in the sights and sounds of a place it once seemed he'd never reach.

The No. 2 pick of the 2010 NFL draft, Suh played five dominant seasons in Detroit, and made the playoffs twice but never the second round.

He came close, in 2014, when he led what was arguably the best defense in the NFL that year to 11 wins. But when the Lions lost a wildcard heartbreaker to the Dallas Cowboys, Suh left the stadium in tears, and two months later was off to South Beach to sign the richest contract by a defensive player in NFL history.

Lions fans jeered his exit—one even taunted him with a billboard that used a dollar sign in place of the "S" in his last name—and laughed when Suh found limited success in his new home with the Miami Dolphins.

The Dolphins won 22 games in Suh's three seasons in town, making the postseason once, then cut him in a cost-saving move last spring.

But for all of the burned bridges he left behind—mostly with fans resentful of the money he made; Suh still does plenty of business in Detroit and said Monday he recently talked to Dolphins owner Stephen Ross—Suh is one win away from climbing the mountain he always dreamed he'd reach.

"I think the mindset was really, coming out of the draft as a rookie, being drafted very high, which was a great blessing, being a part of a team in Detroit where, I was just talking about in 2014, that we had some great opportunities," Suh said. "Even 2011, we had some opportunities to be successful and move up in the ranks and have an opportunity to get after the Super Bowl, but we just happened to come up short. But I've always planned on being a big cog of the wheel that helped a team get to the Super Bowl."

Suh isn't as big a cog in the Dream Team the Los Angeles Rams have assembled as he was in Detroit, when he played annually at an All-Pro level and was easily the best player on a mostly no-name defense.

Now, the Best Player mantle belongs to Aaron Donald, the likely NFL defensive player of the year, and the Rams have one of the most explosive, fun-to-watch offenses in the NFL.

But with 4½ sacks and 59 tackles in 16 regular-season games, Suh is still a big part of a Rams team that is 15-3, and come Sunday he has a chance to change how he'll be remember against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

Suh said Monday he "loved every moment" of his time with the Lions, and said "I was very close to staying in Detroit" when he left as a free agent.

"It was in the team's hand to make that decision, whether they wanted to do, as it's up to every single team and whether they wanted to keep a player or an asset in their particular eyes, and I think they didn't look at me as an asset they wanted to keep," Suh said. "They definitely had an opportunity to keep me, so let's make that very clear."

The Lions and Suh had extensive contract negotiations before the 2014 season, and even when the team cut off contract talks at the start of training camp, they made overtures to ensure his return.

Ultimately, the Lions offered about $17 million annually, with $58 million guaranteed, numbers that fell just short of what the made in Miami (about $60 million guaranteed in his three years)

"I don't know if it was over enough money (that I chose Miami)," he said Monday. "Cause I was offered more money than what I got in Miami from other teams. So it wasn't about money."

Whatever it was, Suh's decision turned out to be the right one.

In Detroit, he was rightfully cast as a dirty player early in his career, and while that reputation has stuck with him, it has softened over the years.

"What do people get wrong about me? They think I'm a villain on and off the field," Suh said. "Like I said earlier … I like to impose my will. I like to be a dominant force when I'm in between the white lines but that's not who I am 24-7, 365. So just don't take my play or (how I) perform or who I am as a human being."

Head-coaches-in-waiting Taylor, Flores focused on task at hand

ATLANTA (AP)—Quarterbacks coach Zac Taylor isn't allowed to talk about what will happen next week after the Los Angeles Rams' trip to the Super Bowl is over and the Cincinnati Bengals hire their next head coach.

Brian Flores, the New England Patriots' unofficial defensive coordinator, says it would be disrespectful for him to discuss what's going on with his own career until next week, when the Miami Dolphins make their own head coaching hire.

Until then, these two assistants on the rise are making sure they're doing everything possible to walk into their next jobs with a big, shiny ring.

The 35-year-old Taylor is widely expected to be hired by the Bengals to replace Marvin Lewis once the Rams' season ends Sunday. While he couldn't confirm the decision during the opening media session of Super Bowl week Monday night, Taylor used his first public comments since the interview process to praise Rams coach Sean McVay for his advice and leadership during their two years together.

"The important thing is to not allow it to be a distraction," Taylor said of his head coaching interviews during the Rams' playoff push. "Sean has been really great to let us take our day to handle that business, and then put it to rest and move on and remain focused. He wants to see the best for us, and so he's been very helpful. That's one of the many things you appreciate about Sean."

An hour after Taylor gently deflected questions about his future, Flores did the same. Late in his 15th season with the Patriots as a scout and coach, the former Boston College linebacker wouldn't address widespread reports that he will take over in Miami after the Super Bowl.

"Right now my vision is on Sunday's game," Flores said. "That's where my head is at."

'Do-over' lawsuit moved to federal court

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Six days before the Super Bowl, the court battle has begun in a longshot lawsuit seeking a possible do-over of the NFC game that ended with a Los Angeles Rams victory over the New Orleans Saints, a game affected by what the NFL concedes was a blown "no-call" by officials.

A Monday hearing in federal court did not result in an immediate ruling. It dealt largely with a jurisdictional question.

The two Saints season ticket holders who filed the lawsuit want it heard in state court in New Orleans. The NFL filed to have it heard in federal court, where U.S. District Judge Susie Morgan heard initial arguments at midday. She was expected to meet with attorneys on both sides again in the evening and it was unclear when the jurisdictional issue, or the case itself, would be resolved.

Officials failed to call interference or roughness penalties when a Rams player leveled a Saints receiver with a helmet-to-helmet hit at a crucial point in the in the final minutes of regulation time. The Rams won the Jan. 20 game in overtime and are set to play the New England Patriots in Sunday's Super Bowl.

The lawsuit by two Saints season ticket holders, Tommy Badeaux and Candis Lambert, says NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell should implement a league rule—Rule 17—governing "extraordinarily unfair acts." Remedies include reversal of a game's result or the rescheduling of a game—in its entirety or from the point when the act occurred.

NFL lawyers say the lawsuit belongs in federal court for reasons including the possible scope. They argued that the suit takes the form of a class action that could mean millions of dollars in damages for Saints ticket holders and others in what the suit calls "the Who Dat Nation," a reference to Saints fans and a popular team cheer.

NFL admits blown call

Eight days after a blown call helped shape the outcome of the NFC Championship Game, the NFL finally acknowledged its mistake in an official capacity.

In a court document filed Sunday, lawyers for the NFL and commissioner Roger Goodell wrote they "do not dispute" what Saints coach Sean Payton told reporters after the game—that the league called him and admitted the officiating error shortly after New Orleans' overtime loss.

"Because the officials on the field are humans, like the players and coaches, errors will happen," the league's lawyers wrote. "The NFL parties do not dispute that they have previously advised the Saints, including the club's head coach, that one or more penalties—for pass interference or illegal helmet-to-helmet contact—were mistakenly not called late in the NFC Championship Game, and that the NFL would like its officials on the field to make these calls.

Lakers, Knicks preparing to make offers for Davis

NEW ORLEANS—The Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks are preparing to make offers for New Orleans Pelicans superstar forward Anthony Davis, league sources said.

The Lakers' brass had a meeting Monday morning in large part to coordinate the franchise's plans, sources said.

Philadelphia, which could put together a fairly competitive offer for Davis, currently has no plans to pursue a deal, sources said. Rich Paul of Klutch Sports represents Davis and Ben Simmons, and a deal centered on swapping his clients is highly unlikely.

The 6-foot-10 All-Star desires to play in a big market that's committed to winning, sources said.

Davis notified the Pelicans over the weekend that he would not sign the five-year, $240 million supermax extension over the summer and that he preferred to be traded, according to Paul.

Davis informed teammates of his intentions before addressing the front office and none of his teammates was surprised, sources said.

Davis, who is sidelined with a fractured left index finger, is expected to make his return to the lineup as soon as Saturday, sources said.

New Orleans will not be pressured by the Feb. 7 trade deadline, sources said, but holding a disgruntled star against his will could prove to be detrimental in the locker room.

Initially, sources said, the objective was for Davis, 25, to pursue a trade during the summer.

But at 22-28, the Pelicans have the third-worst record in the Western Conference and signs of improvement are bleak. Davis has stated repeatedly that he wants to be in a winning situation that will give him a chance to compete for championships.

Regarding team preferences, Boston is not a top target for Davis, sources said. There's a growing belief of uncertainty that Kyrie Irving will re-sign with Boston, sources said, even though he vowed to do so at the beginning of the season.

The Knicks have valuable trade chips in Kristaps Porzingis, rookie Kevin Knox and potentially the No. 1 overall pick in 2019.

With Boston, which has the best trade assets, unable to trade for Davis until the summer because Irving and Davis each have designated player rookie extensions, the Knicks may be the premier Eastern Conference threat to pull off the blockbuster.

If the Knicks are successful, it could boost their attempts to lure Kevin Durant over the summer, and they'd still be in position to snag Irving or Charlotte's Kemba Walker.

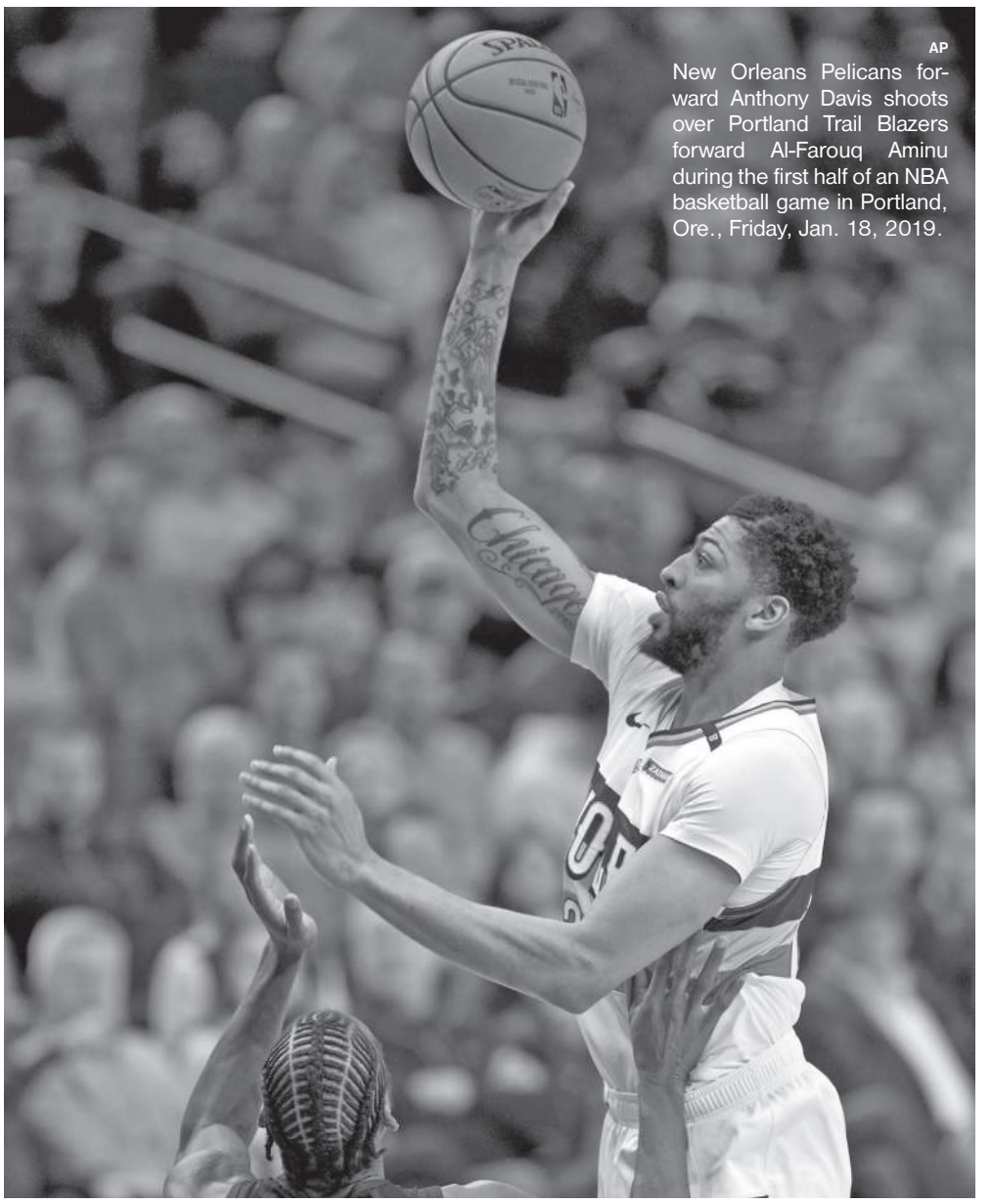
Within a five-month period, Madison Square Garden could be home to a championship contender.

The Lakers' package would almost have to include Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram, and Kyle Kuzma along with other sweeteners and salary-cap fillers.

For the Lakers, it's time to strike now. It's becoming more and more apparent that acquiring a top-tier free agent in the summer might be too complicated.

There's pressure to surround LeBron James with elite talent sooner rather than later. James and Davis share the same agent, making the Lakers the most convenient and logical option.

Those in NBA circles knew this day was coming. Now, we may get to see what it will take for teams to acquire Davis.



AP

New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis shoots over Portland Trail Blazers forward Al-Farouq Aminu during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

Curry's hot hand sends Warriors past Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Stephen Curry's first-half shooting clinic was virtually flawless.

His championship teammates pitched in, too.

Curry scored 23 of his 26 points in the first half Monday and Golden State ran away with a 132-100 rout at Indiana for its league-leading 11th consecutive victory. The two-time defending champions still aren't satisfied.

"I feel like we can," Curry said when asked if the Warriors can get even better. "We're not playing perfect basketball, by any stretch, but we're playing consistent, focused basketball and we're still working out some kinks with rotations and stuff like that."

It's a scary thought for the rest of the league, especially after the two-time MVP turned in another head-turning performance.

Curry made his first eight shots and his first six 3-pointers, including a demoralizing 27-foot buzzer-beater that gave the Warriors a 69-48 halftime lead. He finished 10 of 13 from the field with six rebounds, three assists and two steals in just 27 minutes.

DeMarcus Cousins had a season-high 22 points on a night five players scored in double figures and the Warriors had 39 assists.

And all that came on the final leg of a five-game road trip without Draymond Green, who rested, and against the league's No. 1 scoring defense.

"I was a little worried about this game. Everybody's anxious to get home," coach Steve Kerr said. "But we finished off the trip the right way. We've been more dialed in the last month than we have all season."

Golden State has won a league-high 10 consecutive road games and swept a five-game trip for the first time since November 2014.

The Pacers played without All-Star guard Victor Oladipo, who had season-ending surgery on his right knee Monday, and Tyreke Evans, Oladipo's replacement, because of a sore back. But even at full strength, they may have struggled to weather the Warriors' flurry.

Indiana gave up a season-high 40 points in the first quarter, and never got closer than 16 after Curry broke a 16-16 tie by scoring eight points to start a decisive 24-6 quarter-closing run en route to its most lopsided loss this season.

"There's no doubt in my mind that this team is going on the up track," Pacers guard Darren Collison said. "I think we saw tonight, playing against a team like that, how to execute and we can take something from that."

Myles Turner scored 16 points and Bojan Bogdanovic had 15 but Indiana lost for the second straight time since Oladipo was injured last week. It was the Pacers' worst loss this season.

Nuggets 95, Grizzlies 92

In Memphis, Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets are off to the best start in franchise history.

Only took until the last half of the fourth quarter for them to look the part Monday night.

Jokic scored 24 points and made a go-ahead hook shot with 28.9 seconds left, and the Nuggets overcame a 25-point second-half deficit to beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

The Nuggets rallied hard in the final 4 1/2 minutes, and Will Barton's 3-pointer with 43.9 seconds remaining gave the Nuggets their first lead of the game at 91-89. After a 3-pointer from Memphis' Justin Holiday, Jokic's basket from 7 feet out put Denver ahead to stay.

"We just didn't give up," Jokic said, adding: "That says something about the team. We don't want to quit. We were fighting."

Malik Beasley keyed the fourth-quarter burst, scoring 13 of his 18 points in the final period. Beasley was critical as the Nuggets erased a 13-point deficit with a 19-4 burst.

He scored seven points in that stretch and handed out the assist on Barton's basket that completed the rally, giving the Nuggets their first lead of the game.

The 25-point margin was the largest of the season that Denver has overcome. The Nuggets trailed 77-60 entering the fourth, the 17-point deficit translating to the second-largest fourth-quarter comeback in franchise history.

Hornets 101, Knicks 92

In North Carolina, Nic Batum walked over to Malik Monk after Charlotte's win over the New York Knicks and told the reserve guard, "thank you."

"The starters have played a lot of minutes lately, especially on the road," Batum said. "... We feel like we had heavy legs."

Monk and the others on the Hornets' bench helped bail out the starters.

Kemba Walker finished with 15 points, and Charlotte got 63 points from its bench —including 15 from Tony Parker and 14 from Monk, who added four clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Hornets handed the Knicks their 10th straight loss.

The Hornets entered the fourth quarter tied, but Monk scored 12 points during a pivotal 17-1 run.

As they did in a 119-117 loss at Madison Square Garden last month, the Hornets struggled to shake the Knicks, shooting 36 percent overall and just 5 of 25 from beyond the arc in the first three quarters.

But trailing 75-73, Monk knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers, one coming on a nifty play from Walker, who delivered a wraparound pass from underneath the basket to an open Monk at the top of the key. Monk and Walker accounted for all 17 points during the crucial run.

Celtics 112, Nets 104

In Boston, the Celtics blocked out an emotional loss to the Golden State Warriors over the weekend.

They swatted away a franchise record-tying number of shots, too.

Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart each scored 21 points, and the Celtics beat Brooklyn to snap the injury-riddled Nets' six-game winning streak.

Aron Baynes had 16 points, Marcus Morris 15, and Al Horford and Terry Rozier each had 14 for Boston, which tied a franchise record with 16 blocked shots and won for the sixth time in seven games. Horford had 11 rebounds.

The Celtics played without star guard Kyrie Irving, who was sidelined with a sore left hip.

Boston lost a tough 115-111 contest against the Warriors on Saturday.

"We're professionals and you've got to move onto the next one," Smart said. "We were short, Kyrie wasn't playing. A lot of guys needed to step up and they did tonight."

Hawks 123, Clippers 118

In Los Angeles, Trae Young scored 26 points, John Collins added 22 and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Clippers for the first time in nearly three years.

Atlanta had lost five in a row to the Clippers dating to March 5, 2016. The Hawks earned their first win against a Pacific Division opponent this season after dropping their first five.

Alex Len had 19 points and nine rebounds off the bench for the Hawks.

Tobias Harris scored 30 points for the Clippers, whose three-game winning streak ended on the second night of a back-to-back. Lou Williams finished with 21 points and nine assists, and Montrezl Harrell had 18 points.

Japan advances, eyes fifth Asian Cup title

AL AIN, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Japan will play for a record fifth Asian Cup title after reaching the final by defeating Iran 3-0 on Monday.

The host United Arab Emirates and Qatar meet in the other semifinal on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi for a berth in Friday's final.

Forward Yuya Osako did the damage in the second half by scoring the first goals conceded by Iran in the tournament.

He headed in the first in the 56th minute, and converted from the penalty spot 11 minutes later after VAR confirmed Iran defender Morteza Pouraliganji's handball in the area.

Osako also scored twice in the 3-2 win over Turkmenistan in the group stage.

Genki Haraguchi finished the scoring in second-half injury time.

Japan won by a bigger margin than one goal for the first time in six matches at this Asian Cup.

Iran missed forward Mehdi Taremi, who had three goals in the tournament.

Carlos Queiroz, the former Real Madrid coach who has been in charge of Iran since 2011, came close to earning Iran its first title since 1976.

AP

Iran's midfielder Mehdi Torabi, background, fights for the ball with Japan's forward Junya Ito, foreground, during the AFC Asian Cup semifinal soccer match at Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Jan. 28, 2015. Japan beat Iran 2-0.

Meanwhile, South Korean defender Kim Min-jae on Tuesday snubbed "Monster" interest from the Premier League and the advice of his team-mates to sign for Beijing Guoan in China.

The 22-year-old centre-back, whose club Jeonbuk Motors said they had received a bid from Watford reported to be about $8 million, instead plumped for the Chinese Super League (CSL).

AFC ASIAN CUP UAE 2019

Coached by Germany's Roger Schmidt, Guoan will be hoping the established international can stiffen a leaky defence that conceded 45 goals in the CSL last season.

Kim missed the 2018 World Cup because of injury but is a stalwart of the South Korean side and was in the team for their surprise 1-0 loss to Qatar in the Asian Cup quarterfinals last week.

Kim, whose "Monster" nickname stems from his powerful physique, had put all talk of his next move off while at the tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

But teammates had encouraged him to take his chance and follow in the footsteps of Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min, who has excelled in the Premier League.

Even Korean players plying their trade in the CSL had told the defender to go to England.

"I thought that he was going to China but then I heard good news and I hope he can make the better choice," said Kwon Kyung-won, who plays for Tianjin, after Watford's interest surfaced.

China is attractive to Asian players because of its high wages and proximity to home.

Djokovic chasing more Grand Slam trophies

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic sounds like a man ready to embrace the chase.

Already at 15 Grand Slam titles, Djokovic is now only two majors behind Rafael Nadal's total of 17, and five shy of Roger Federer's men's record of 20.

So a day after winning the Australian Open for his third Slam trophy in a row, Djokovic was asked about whether he is pursuing them.

It's the sort of thing some athletes— including Nadal, repeatedly, over the years—downplay or try to deflect entirely. Not Djokovic. He's owning this.

"Well, if I'm still playing and winning Slams, I think it's logical to conclude that I am," he said at a photo shoot Monday. "I'm blessed to be able to win 15. I know there are two guys ahead of me now, in the history of the most Slams won, but I still have time. I'm not rushing."

That's his team's theme.

Late Sunday night at Melbourne Park, Djokovic's coach, Marian Vajda, couldn't stop smiling as he dissected the unbelievably lopsided 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Nadal in the final—and its larger significance.

Yes, Vajda said, a record seventh championship in Australia means a lot. But he was interested in discussing a different tally.

ITF International Tennis Federation

"More important is the other number that he's getting up to, 15. It's an incredible, incredible number. I don't want to go too far, but he's in a very good position now for going for a little bit more," Vajda said. "But 20 is still far away. A lot of things can happen. At the moment, Novak feels really good about reaching, maybe, another Grand Slam victory."

Just one more?

"Yes, one more," Vajda said with a hearty laugh, his voice rising as he fiddled with his tournament accreditation pass. "And then one more. And then one more. And then one more! One by one. Absolutely, his long-term goal is to reach Rafa's number and, if it's possible—and his age allows it—Roger's. Why not?"

A year removed from surgery to his right elbow, Djokovic is pain-free, ranked No. 1 and, perhaps, better than ever.

The near-perfection with which he won his last two matches—a combined 58 winners and 14 unforced errors in his semifinal and final—was something Djokovic termed "pleasantly surprising" and Nadal considered "the highest level possible."

Against Nadal, who hadn't dropped a set in the tournament or a service game since the first round, Djokovic managed five breaks. He also won 25 of the first 26 points he served.

"During the whole match, Novak was very disciplined," was Vajda's assessment. "He had so many ups. He didn't have any downs."

And so it is that everything seems in play at the moment for Djokovic.

Four major titles in a row, something he already accomplished from 2015-16: Why not?

A calendar-year Grand Slam, something no man has done since Rod Laver in 1969: Why not?

Catching up to, and eventually surpassing, Nadal and Federer: Why not?

When Djokovic's childhood idol, Pete Sampras, won the 2002 U.S. Open by beating his greatest rival, Andre Agassi, in the final, it raised his Grand Slam count to 14. At that point, no other man in the sport's history had more than 12.

Federer, Nadal and Djokovic had a combined zero major championships back then. Look where that trio stands now.

Sampras had just turned 31 and would never play another match on tour.

Federer is 37, Nadal is 32, and Djokovic is 31. This is a different time.

US beats Panama in Berhalter's debut as coach

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Gregg Berhalter ushered in a new era for the U.S. men's national team with an attacking style and a new captain.

A lopsided win was a great way to get started, even in a match involving mostly second and third-stringers.

Berhalter became the third U.S. coach in the modern era to start with a win, Djordje Mihailovic and Christian Ramirez scored in their national team debuts and the Americans beat Panama 3-0 Sunday night in an exhibition.

"It's nice to put in the work after an extended period of time and get a reward for that," Berhalter said . "The guys should be proud of themselves. They really worked hard."

Walker Zimmerman also scored for the U.S., which used a roster of players all from Major League Soccer and drew just 9,040, its smallest for a home game since October 2016.

Berhalter made a surprise pick as captain, choosing 26-year-old defender Aaron Long in his third international appearance rather than 31-year-old midfielder Michael Bradley in his 143rd.

"Leadership comes naturally to me," Long said. "I am one of the older guys in camp and stepped up that way. I just try to go about my business the same way, change nothing."

Berhalter made the decision during training camp.

"We see his leadership qualities. Every exercise we do he's competitive, he's driving guys, he's pushing guys, and we like that. We like his demeanor," he said. "I don't think it was a knock against anyone else that they weren't captain, I think I would look at it more as a positive that Aaron was captain because of what he's been doing these last couple of weeks."

Having been removed as captain once as a player without explanation, Berhalter made sure to speak with Bradley.

"I was very clear with him, I said, listen, you would look at the roster and you'd be the logical choice for captain, but we're not going with you, we're going with Aaron, and here's why we're going with Aaron," Berhalter said. "I told him that he'll still be a leader when he's on the field by his performance. The armband is maybe just authority, but you can lead through your actions, and I think Michael certainly has done that tonight."

Seven U.S. players made debuts, including five starters—the most since in the starting lineup since Sept. 3, 1992, at Canada.

Mihailovic and fellow midfielders Corey Baird and Jeremy Ebobisse made their first appearances along with right back Nick Lima and left back Daniel Lovitz. Midfielder Jonathan Lewis made his debut in the 66th minute and Ramirez entered at striker in the 84th.

Els likes sound of playing captain at Presidents Cup

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—So, in the end, he didn't make off with what would have been a fourth Dubai Desert Classic title. But his play over the four days—and eventual T-12 finish—showed that more than a flickering life remains in the supposedly aging Afrikaner.

Ernie Els turns 50 in October, a couple of months before he captains the International team in the Presidents Cup matches at Royal Melbourne. His current assignment there is non-playing, but if the stellar form he showed at the Emirates Club in a tournament he first won a quarter of a century ago continues, that could well change.

OK, that might be a bit of a stretch. But Els and Royal Melbourne have some history. The four-time major champion's 12-under-par 60 in the 2004 Heineken Classic remains the lowest round ever shot over the composite course many regard as the finest in the southern hemisphere. Few understand its nuances and subtleties better than Els.

"I have a very good feel for Royal Melbourne," he says with some justification. "I've won there a couple of times, so I know how to get round. I understand the strategy involved. It's all about positioning more than power."

AP

Ernie Els of South Africa plays a shot on the 3rd hole during round three of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

The positive signs were obvious early in the week in Dubai. Halfway through Els' opening round on Thursday, long-time caddie Rikki Roberts was purring contentedly over his man's form. "This is the best I've seen Ernie swing in 10 years," said the man who was on the bag for all four of Els' Grand Slam victories.

Indeed, playing alongside Colin Montgomerie and Jose Maria Olazabal, Els was performing on a different level to his two old foes, both of whom missed the halfway cut. Relative to each other, one thing hadn't changed though.

It was almost comical to watch, a head-nodding reminder of days gone by. Off the tee, Montgomerie would routinely split the fairway, just as he has almost always done throughout his career. Els would then launch one 40 yards or so past the Scot. Again, nothing new in that. Then Olazabal, never the best with the longest club in his bag, would send one into rough left or right. It was circa-1994 all over again.

"I'm not surprised by anything Ernie has done this week," said Montgomerie, just before his old pal's final-round 71 began. "He's swinging the club fantastically well. Yes, he's suffered with the putter a bit these last few years, but he's still incredibly good from 20 feet or so. And he's still well long enough off the tee at 49. I would not be surprised if he wins this. There is a 65 in him. This course suits him. It's a course made for those who can hit high draws. And that is Ernie. The 4-iron he hit to the last green on Friday evening was 'Woods-esque' even in Tiger's prime. Which is the biggest compliment I can pay Ernie."

It wasn't to be, of course. Not the 65. Nor the win, Els finishing 10 strokes back of Bryson DeChambeau, the runaway winner. But Monty's theme was one echoed by others, not least Els himself. As early as the end of day two, the South African giant was also talking himself up—albeit in his usual quiet and understated way. In adding a seven-under par 65 to his opening 68, the 1994, 2002 and 2005 champion made seven birdies and an eagle. His birdie-tally for the week, which would reach 19, was already 14.

MVP Yelich, Brewers looking to build on huge season

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Christian Yelich was a late arrival to the Milwaukee Brewers' annual winter fan festival. Considering the reason, his tardiness was more than understandable.

Yelich spent Saturday night in New York, where he was presented with his 2018 National League Most Valuable Player Award trophy. He then flew back to Milwaukee on Sunday on the private jet of team owner Mark Attanasio.

It's quite a difference from a year ago, when Yelich had flown on the very same plane to Milwaukee just days after he was acquired in a blockbuster trade with the Miami Marlins. Joining him on that flight were Hall of Famers Robin Yount and Bob Uecker, as well as Ryan Braun, who had been the last Brewers player to earn MVP honors.

"You are on this flight with Brewers royalty and you kind of feel out of place at the time," Yelich recalled Sunday.

Now, after one of the most prolific seasons in franchise history, Yelich is part of that echelon. His No. 22 jersey was among the most popular among in the sold-out crowd at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee and his line for autographs was easily the day's longest—even more so than those for franchise icons Yount and Uecker.

"He's a superstar," said manager Craig Counsell, who presented Yelich at Saturday night's awards banquet. "We had people chasing our car down last night down the streets in New York."

"But I think from his perspective, he's really looking forward to playing baseball again. And then it's a little bit more business as usual," he said.

Business as usual has taken on a new meaning in Milwaukee after Yelich and the Brewers burst back onto the national scene last season, storming into the postseason before finishing a game short of the franchise's first World Series berth since 1982.

Yelich played a key role in that run. Acquired to add a more consistent left-handed bat for the top of a lineup that struggled to produce in 2017, Yelich got off to a good start and earned his first career All-Star nod by hitting .292 with 11 home runs and 43 RBIs in the first half.

That turned out to be nothing more than a prelude of what was to come.

After hitting in three straight games heading into the All-Star Break, Yelich stretched his streak to 15 games to open the second half and had raised his average to .317 after closing out August with a 2-for-4 showing in a 4-1 victory at Washington.

SANTOS

From Page 28

nas, Jack Lizama, and Douglas Schmidt and Jeff Deleon Guerrero.

In the women's division, the pair of individual awards also went to the champion team—Bomb Digz. Eleina Santos got the MVP plum, while the returning Lia Rangamar, who missed suiting up for the CNMI national team in last year's Micronesian Games in Yap due to injury, bagged the Best Defensive Player award.

Santos, who also teamed up with Connie Camacho and Jan Travilla, was the consistent top scorer for Bomb Digz, giving their squad an unbeaten record in five games. She tallied 6 markers in Bomb Digz 16-11 title victory over CTSI.

Paulynn Joyce scored 4 points in their 13-10 triumph in the finals against Tinian and made it to the board in Chagi's four other games to earn the MVP award in the girls U18 division. Tinian's Emiliana King claimed the other individual trophy—Best Defensive Player—in the competition.

Tinian got one more individual award with the Typhoon's Jared King notching the MVP plum in the boys U15 division. King helped Tinian Typhoon sweep the four games in the elimination round. He also brought Tinian to the finals after they beat Balas Ballers in the playoffs, 16-10.

Greg Deleon Guerrero and his teammates at Roll Aces foiled Tinian's perfect run in the tournament after pulling off an upset in the finals, 18-11. Besides getting the championship trophy, Deleon Guerrero also went home with the Best Defensive Player award.

Meanwhile, organizers of the inaugural event thanked all those involved in the successful staging of the competition.

"MIBL would like to first thank the following sponsors for making this event possible: Hot Deals, Mystique Snacks and BBQ, IT&E, *Marianas Variety,* Latte Built, The Undeniable; and Fiesta Resort. We would also like to acknowledge Cultura Athletics and The Game Athletics and all of the volunteers, the parks and grounds team for helping with the venue, and some dignitaries who humbly requested not be named for helping with the tents, tables, lights and the likes. We would also like to thank Typhoon Sports for doing an awesome job in bringing their teams over. Lastly, thanks to all the teams, players, supporters, and fans for making the MIBL 3x3 a success," said Clint Albert, who shared the league's commissioner duties with Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Elias Rangamar.

GCA

From Page 28

but her efforts were a drop in the bucket in comparison to the team effort shown by the Lady Eagles.

"We're at our best when we're having fun and playing together," GCA coach Cesar Libut said. "They play really well when they're loose and relaxed like today (last Monday)."

Meanwhile, in the boys division, the Eagles also soared past the Knights, 25-12, 25-19. With the victory, GCA quickly bounced back from its loss to SIS and finished the regular season with a division-leading 5-1 record, while MCS was winless in six games.

In other results, SIS also prevailed against Agape after only two sets, 25-28, 25-18, to beat the Torchbearers in the battle for the No. 2 spot in the final team standings. Before their duel, SIS and Agape held identical 3-2 marks.

UPSET

From Page 28

ian, which topped the former in their first encounter in Pool A, 14-9. Tinian had a repeat in their second showdown in the preliminary round after eking out a 19-18 triumph. The Roll Aces, which had Greg Deleon Guerrero, Anthony Lajara, Derrick Atalig, and Steve King on its roster, finished the double-round robin elimination with an even 2-2 record after winning a pair of matches against the Young Gunz's John Rizo, Jayvan Lizama, and Raven Francisco, 13-8 and 22-15.

Tinian's JC Guintu, Ricky Cruz, Sir-Lashu Dela Cruz, and Jared King also swept the Young Gunz, 14-10 and 15-9, to enter the semifinals undefeated and set up a duel with Balas Ballers for a finals berth in the division.

Balas Ballers' Sebastian Saures, Lushawnn Reyes, Tyrik Basa, and Jacody Lizama made it to the semis as they finished No. 2 in Pool B with their 2-2 record. Balas defeated Marianas 670 twice, 12-6 and 16-3, and lost to the top-ranked MCS Knights, 7-10 and 3-11. Tinian went on hand Balas its third defeat in the event after a 16-10 triumph in the first semis game.

In the second Final Four match, the MCS Knights' Jeremiah Diaz, Merrick Toves, Richard Steele, and Vince Salvador missed a stint in the division title game after they were spoiled by the Roll Aces, 17-15.

The close victory over MCS allowed the Roll Aces to meet Tinian anew and third time turned out to be the charm for the latter. With its 7-point win over Tinian in the finals, the Roll Aces had the most points in the weekend tournament, recording 97 markers for an average of 16.2 points per match. Tinian collected 89 points and averaged 14.8.

Suh reshapes legacy in Super Bowl shot with Rams

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers, Knicks preparing to make offers for Davis

PAGE 25

GCA secures top seeding in playoffs

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan goes for an overhand serve during their game against Mt. Carmel School's varsity team in the CCOPSA volleyball league last Monday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy bested Mount Carmel School's varsity team in two sets in the girls division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Monday at the Knights' court in Chalan Kanoa.

The Lady Eagles swooped past the Lady Knights, 25-12, 25-16, to push their record to a league-best 9-1 and claim the top seeding in the playoffs. MCS, on the other hand, finished the regular season with a 7-3 mark to slide to third place behind Saipan International School 1 (8-2).

The Lady Geckos took the No. 2 seeding in the playoffs following a sweep of Agape Christian School, 25-18, 25-13, in the other girls division match last Monday at the Torchbearers court in Gualo Rai. Agape wrapped up the regular season with only one win against nine losses. Mt. Carmel's junior varsity squad (3-6) and SIS 2 (1-8) complete the division and will play in the last make-up game in the regular season today with results of their match to determine the pairings in the first round of the playoffs.

In the penultimate game in the regular season, reserves Joyce Francisco, Miku Kimura, and Tina Choi suited up for GCA in the second and final set and played key roles in keeping MCS at bay. Francisco and Kimura made key defensive stops, while Choi slammed the game-clinching spike. Complementing the quality games of the Lady Eagles' second stringers were captains Jasmine Phan and Clerisse Dacumos, who were business as usual in the second set, with the former consistently finishing the right on the money sets from the latter.

Earlier in the first set, Dacumos and Karina Dilse had brilliant performances from the server's spot. With the score knotted up at 3-3, Dacumos dialed in with seven consecutive serves to hand the Lady Eagles a 10-3 advantage. Then at the 17-12 mark, Dilse rattled home a spike then rotated to the server's line, where she scored seven uninterrupted underhand serves to ice the opening frame.

Before Dilse closed out strong for GCA, Lady Knights captain Louisa Hahn fired off a spike to halt Dacumos' serving onslaught. Han also mustered a string of three serves,

See GCA on Page 26

Upset win for Roll Aces

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Roll Aces' Greg Deleon Guerrero, center, is hounded by Tinian Typhoon defenders during their title game in the boys U15 division of the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Roll Aces delivered when it mattered the most, stunning Tinian Typhoon, 18-11, in the finals of the boys U15 division of the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament held over the weekend at the Civic Center court and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Going into the finale, the Roll Aces was 0-2 against Tin-

See UPSET on Page 26

Santos, Blake lead individual awardees

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mix Breed's Dean Blake, right, beats Ali'i Blue Haus' Bart Demapan in the rebound play during their semis game in the men's open division of the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young guns Coby Santos and Dean Blake of Latte Built-Mix Breed outshone the seasoned veterans on island after getting the two individual awards in the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament.

Santos was named The Game MVP in the men's division, while Blake took the IT&E Best Defensive Player trophy. The duo, who represented the CNMI in FIBA Asia 3x3 tournament last year, powered Latte Built-Mix Breed to a 21-11 finals win over JPdoubleD, which was bannered by former national team players Dan Barci-

See SANTOS on Page 26